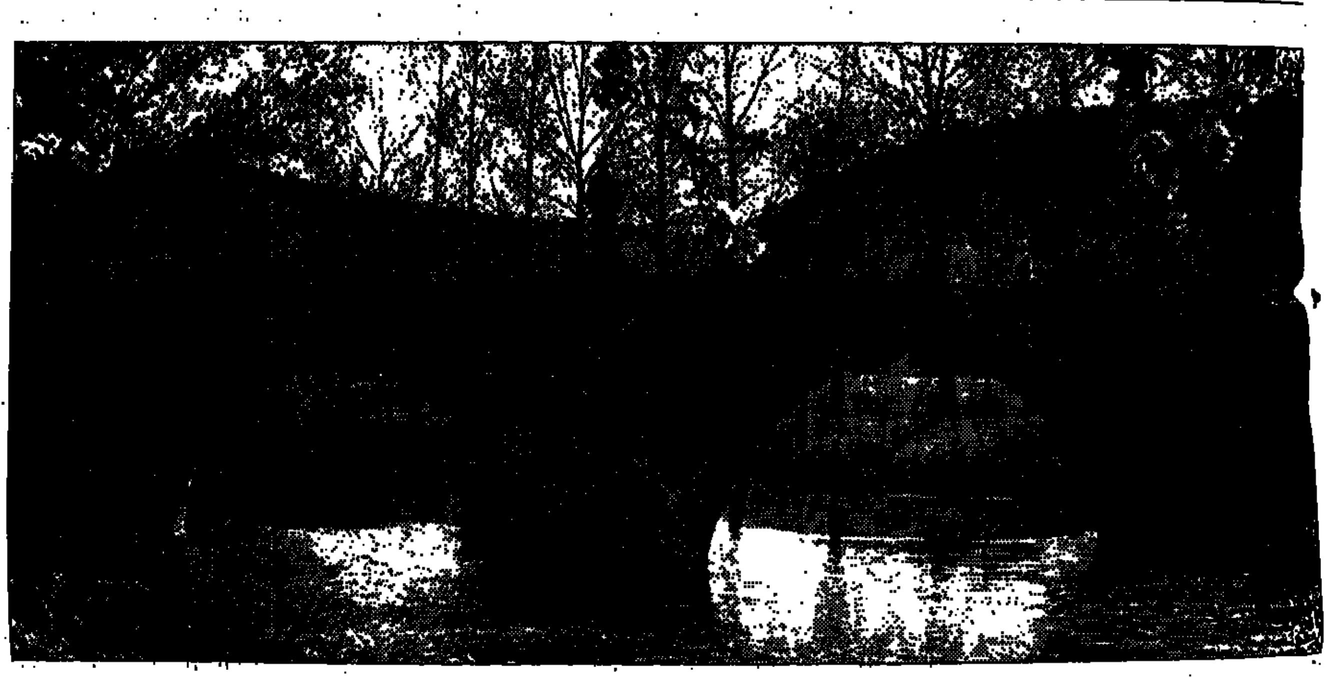
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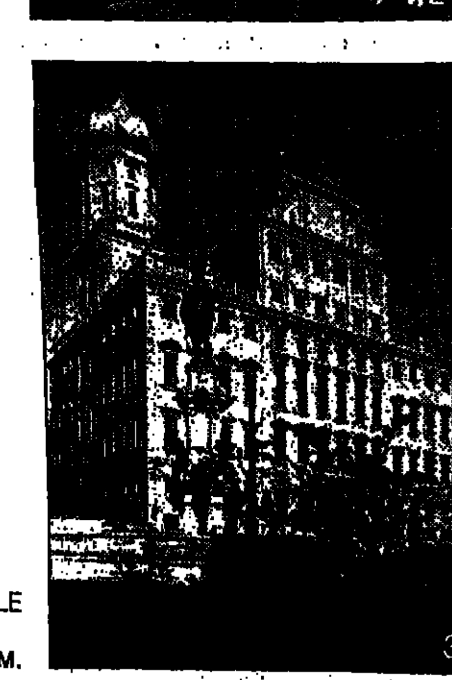
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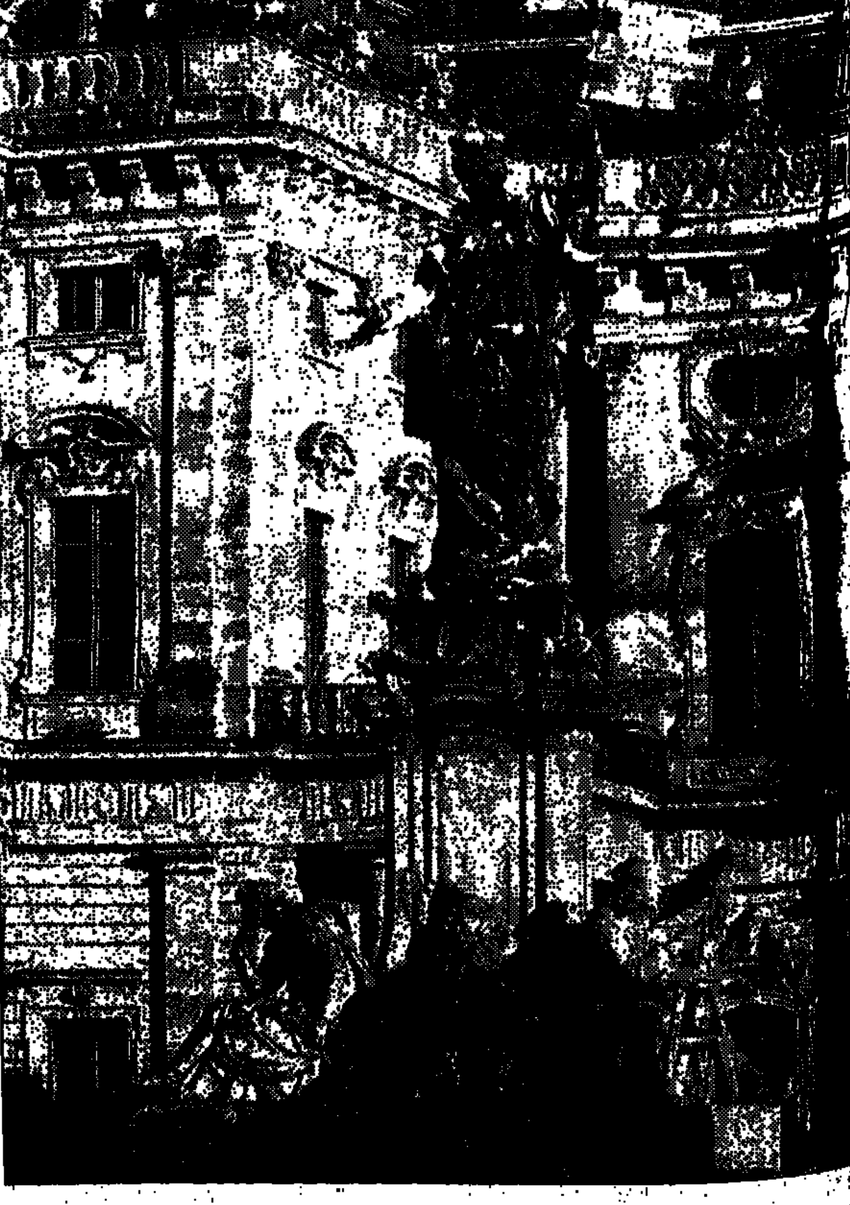
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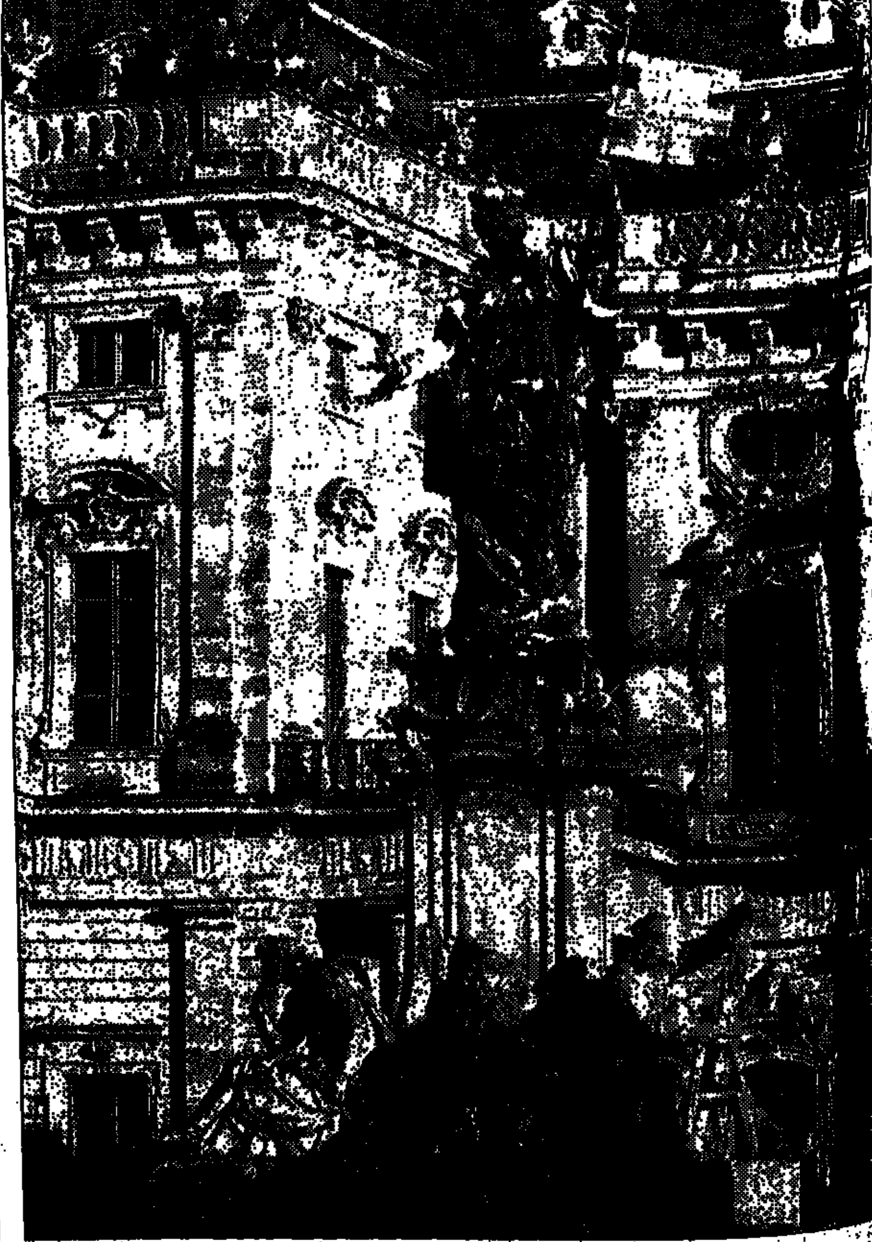












1 The Tauber valley
2 Rothenburg ob der Tauber
3 Augsburg
4 Würzburg

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 29 June 1986
Twenty-fifth year - No. 1232 - By air

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Superpower conduct cause of hope and despair in rest of world

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The Superpowers are hard to fathom. America and Russia are past masters at plunging the rest of the world, especially the Europeans, into hot and cold showers of emotion ranging from hope to despair.

Yet the latest news from Washington and Moscow has shown the few, rickety bridges between the Big Two to be unexpectedly weather-resistant.

After the propaganda battles of last spring that seemed to have knocked the stuffing out of the Spirit of Geneva there seems to be a return to a basic pattern of agreement on disarmament.

Will there be a chance after all before the year is out of starting, for the first time ever, to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons?

It sounds too good to be true, yet President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov seems likely to meet again this year, which would be a step forward in itself, given that both leaders are under pressure to succeed.

Besides, despite European lamentation the blunt and forthright stand taken by the United States has clearly prompted the Russians to present compromise proposals.

A consensus on the total withdrawal of medium-range missiles from Europe has at least become a likelier prospect.

The East has also submitted proposals to be taken seriously on conventional arms cuts: proposals that come close to European views on the subject.

The Soviet proposals contain the pitfalls of old. Bonn sees the Soviet Union as dispensing once and for all with British and French missile warheads in its medium-range equation in Europe, but only on the understanding that Britain and France neither update nor increase their nuclear potential [illegible]

That is basically what Mr Gorbachov had to offer in mid-January, and he appears to be demanding a high price for a possible substitute for Salt 2, which the Americans seem now to have ditched once and for all, in the form of drastic disarmament moves.

The Soviet leader suggests agreeing to ABM Treaty terms for 15 years and limiting SDI research to laboratory experiments in keeping with the strictest interpretation of the treaty.

In other words, Mr Gorbachov is keen to cut American SDI plans down to the smallest scale possible.

There is room for negotiation in this context, however. What is new about the present situation is that Moscow has finally met the Western demand for specific negotiating proposals to follow the Soviet leader's fine words. There are also signs that the East is prepared to meet the West half-way on verification, the trickiest aspect of the disarmament talks.

At all events Mr Gorbachov's offensive course in proclaiming arms control now seems to have prevailed in Moscow, a point of which Geneva observers were unsure for months.

Now, after a pause for breath, we are back in the fray of a contest for the hearts and souls of the Western democracies in particular.

In Bonn government officials expect an inundation of Soviet proposals by no means merely propagandistic in character. The comparatively inflexible attitude taken by Washington, aimed moreover at gaining maximum domestic effect, is viewed with alarm.

The Europeans must be on their guard and not underestimate America's resolve to do business with the other superpower on its own terms.

The hue and cry at the Nato Halifax conference over the Reagan administration attitude on Salt 2 (a hue and cry in which Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher shrewdly maintained a low profile) was a situation in which the Europeans ran a risk of sidelining themselves.

If the superpowers were to effectively succeed in embarking on strategic disarmament and finding a substitute for the unloved and never ratified Salt 2 treaty the Americans would feel just fine.

They see European lamentation as a mere "I told you so" attitude on the part of countries with no direct responsibility for world affairs.

Yet the moderation Washington has so far sounded in its response to the latest Soviet proposals must surely be seen as an attempt to keep America's European allies happy.

This can hardly be said to indicate that the Western alliance is in particularly fine fettle. Cooperation is failing to work in sectors ranging from trade to terrorism and from technology to space research.

As for East-West ties, detente is at present a strictly European-only concept.

Helmut Kohl, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, François Mitterrand and Jacques Chiraq are spreading the detente net and the Bonn government refers openly to a counterweight to the United States. Stress within Nato cannot invariably be applied to East-West ties too. The outlook for progress in nuclear arms control between Moscow and Washington is almost better than for ties within the Western alliance. Both superpowers realise they are committed to nego-

Continued on page 2



Paris rendezvous

Chancellor Kohl (right) with President Mitterrand this month at Rambouillet castle, near Paris before the latest in their regular series of meetings. (Photo: AP)

Washington, Moscow, move closer and give lie to pessimists

Any idea that the US air raids on Libya had ended hope of Reagan and Gorbachov picking up where they left off at their Geneva talks has been forgotten.

The chill in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union has ended sooner than expected.

In his latest speech President Reagan says the Kremlin is making serious efforts on disarmament.

This is a pointer toward rapprochement because its positive basic trend corresponds with a simultaneous note of moderation by the East.

Moscow will shortly be hosting President Mitterrand of France. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is visiting London in July.

Travelling diplomats next month will also include Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is scheduled to visit the Soviet capital.

At first glance this spate of Soviet activity in the West merely fuels suspicions that the Kremlin is stepping up its bids to drive a wedge, via personal contacts and closer economic ties, between America and its partners in Europe.

But Moscow has also submitted disarmament proposals that President Reagan even sees as a turning point in East-West disarmament moves.

So a second glance shows that Moscow is seeking, via talks with Washington's friends in Western Europe, to resume the major dialogue with the United States.

The new series of conferences could lay the groundwork for a meeting between US Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to prepare for the next Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

The leaders of the two superpowers agreed in Geneva to two further summit meetings: one in America this year and another in the Soviet Union in 1987.

There are growing indications that they will keep by and large to the timetable agreed in Geneva.

The invitation to Herr Genscher to visit Moscow, an invitation immediately accepted by the Bonn government, indicates a gentle correction of the Soviet foreign policy line, which has hitherto sought to pursue Westpolitik to the exclusion of the Federal Republic.

Bonn was to be punished both for implementing the Nato missile deployment decision and for collaborating in the American SDI research project.

The Kremlin has now reverted to a more objective approach.

Moscow is also throwing the gateways to the West a little further open because Mr Gorbachov is forced to do so by domestic considerations in the wake of Chernobyl.

It would be no surprise if the gateway were to open, after further delay, for East German leader Erich Honecker's visit to Bonn.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 21 June 1986)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

After Chernobyl, after the summit: Warsaw Pact nations assess balance sheet

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov has honoured his three strongest partners in the Warsaw Pact one after the other:

• receiving Poland's General Jaruzelski with demonstrative cordiality in Moscow;

• attending GDR leader Erich Honecker's SED Party conference in East Berlin;

• and paying Budapest and Hungarian leader Janos Kadar a state visit.

He also held a Warsaw Pact summit in Budapest, which now stands for yet another disarmament bid.

Other Warsaw Pact countries are less impressive:

• Once-proud President Ceausescu of Rumania is broke and has had to return to the straight and narrow path of Soviet-style virtue.

• The Czechs are busy with themselves and the Bulgarians have carelessly forfeited their role as teacher's pet.

Mr Kadar is an economic reformer whose experiments occasionally reach the limit of what is tolerable within the



socialist system. But he is undisputably successful.

He is also held in high repute in both Eastern and Western Europe, and at times during Mr Gorbachov's visit the Soviet leader seemed not to be giving Mr Kadar his blessing but to be basking in the sunshine reflected by the Hungarian detente veteran.

The repercussions of the Chernobyl reactor accident have dealt East Bloc confidence a serious blow. Neighbouring countries were no less affected than the Soviet Union itself. There was no getting away from the fact.

So the Soviet Union may have been grateful for the way in which Mr Kadar went even further out of his way than is usual on such occasions to hail the new Kremlin leader.

What sector can East Bloc cohesion most impressively be demonstrated in? Certainly not in trade, in industry or in the arts. Different interests are tangible in all three sectors.

That leaves only foreign affairs, with armaments as its main aspect, and Budapest was an opportunity to flesh out Mr Gorbachov's disarmament moves in a further respect.

His proposal on medium-range missiles has already been outlined. Troop cuts in Europe were on the Budapest agenda.

Time and place were well judged, but thick layers of packaging must be removed before the details come to light.

The Warsaw Pact communiqué first itemises previous proposals, explaining them, and their finer points and appealing to the West to take them seriously.

Then comes a specific suggestion to start with troop cuts of 100,000 or 150,000 men on each side and carry on until, in the early 1990s, half a million men fewer are under arms in Europe.

This may sound fine to someone who has not looked into the collected pitfalls of the 13-year Vienna MBFR troop cut talks.

Experts in the undergrowth of strategic talks may also see signs of promise in the proposal.

President Reagan is not alone in saying it will have to be considered. But for the moment it must be recalled that manpower counts brought the Vienna talks to a virtual standstill.

There was a pointer in the Budapest proposals, which suggested setting up an advisory commission consisting of members of both pacts.

That sounds very much like a body consisting of equal numbers of Nato and Warsaw Pact members in a position to stalemate each other rather than a facility enabling one side to control and inspect the other.

One wonders whether this "first step" might not prove a step in the wrong direction.

If this is the case, then one must also doubt whether the East Bloc proposals have been made with negotiations in mind.

Hans-Joachim Deckert

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 13 June 1986)

Bundestag move on Pretoria reveals its impotence

The unanimity with which the Bundestag has condemned apartheid can delude no-one. Neither it nor any of the world's parliaments knows how to solve South Africa's state of permanent crisis.

So the Bundestag's call on the European Community to take "suitable measures" against South Africa is partly an expression of its powerlessness as the situation deteriorates there.

Will the Common Market summit in The Hague come up with a solution? That hardly seems likely, especially as member-countries have so far been unable to agree on a joint policy toward Pretoria.

The appointment of a commission to look into the problem serves merely to paper over European disunity, a dispute that divides countries and parliaments.

It proves yet again that the European Community is not yet capable of pursuing a joint and at the same time effective foreign policy.

Yet again the reason must be sought in the different economic interests held by member-countries.

The European Community cannot possibly hope to reconcile these conflicting interests.

Denmark for instance has only loose economic ties with President Botha's regime and had little difficulty in advocating a boycott.

Britain in contrast is more heavily dependent on trade with South Africa than South Africa is on trade with it.

Europeans must live with this contradiction and will doubtless do so. But they are unlikely to make much headway, if any.

There has been repeated debate on the sense and nonsense of economic sanctions as demanded even by representatives of South Africa's black majority.

Two arguments marshalled by opponents of a boycott, who seem likely to include both Franz Josef Strauss and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, cannot be lightly dismissed.

• Other countries are all too ready to jump into the breach and so make any boycott ineffective.

• To break off economic ties is to forfeit political influence that might just enable one to stave off some alarming development or other.

The same applies to breaking off diplomatic relations.

If the Botha regime were to feel itself out on a limb once and for all it might react in an even more hare-brained manner. A bloodbath would inevitably result.

So the proposal by CDU foreign policy expert Volker Rühe for a special conference to be held by America, Britain, France and Germany sounds more promising.

These four have enough clout to exert political pressure on South Africa.

They will need to do so soon. Black South Africans are unlikely to keep quiet for much longer.

Karl Hugo Pruys

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 20 June 1986)

Continued from page 1

tiations come what may. In largely excluding the Europeans from decision-making processes the United States is heightening the risk it runs as the West's leading power.

Even Chancellor Kohl, a friend of President Reagan's, now expects a superpower summit to achieve results. All Europeans are clamouring for abolition of the medium-range missiles they feel particularly threatened by.

If the United States were to end the year empty-handed dissatisfaction within the Western alliance would be particularly deep-seated and current transatlantic carping would be paradise in comparison with the atmosphere then.

Thomas Meyer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 20 June 1986)

New ideas on the defence of Europe

For years a European pillar of the North Atlantic pact has been said to be indispensable. So any reasoned attempt to lend meaning to this empty formula merits attention and appraisal.

Especially, one must add, when it is made by a British politician. British ideas on a European defence policy have been few and far between.

SDP leader David Owen, British Foreign Secretary until his break with the Labour Party, recently outlined his views in Bonn.

In Britain they created a controversy within the SDP-Liberal Alliance. Social Democrats want to retain an independent nuclear deterrent; Liberals don't.

Dr Owen works on the assumption that Nato will be unable to survive the growing preponderance of a nuclear strategy that is onesidedly American in orientation.

Yet on the Continent France alone has stabilised itself as a nuclear power.

A further source of upset would, he argues, arise if Britain, France and Germany were no longer to speak with one voice in their defence dialogue with the United States, either bilaterally or within the alliance.

No matter how necessary and meaningful security cooperation may be, the 12 European Community countries are as little able to devise a European strategy of their own as are the seven member-countries of the Western European Union.

So Dr Owen calls for a European arms policy triad consisting of Britain, France and Germany as the only basis for a European pillar in Nato.

In the quest for a balance of power among Western partners in a policy of effective deterrence and gradual disarmament Dr Owen first looks to France, which has a powerful strategic nuclear force.

France, he says, is self-assured in its arms policy. No French political party doubts the need for a nuclear deterrent.

Bearing this in mind, Dr Owen views his own country with trepidation. If Labour pressure to scrap Britain's independent nuclear deterrent were to succeed fresh uncertainty would arise in Europe, especially in the European Community.

So there must be an end to the absurd practice by which Britain and France fail even to coordinate target planning and nuclear submarine deployment.

Dr Owen goes much further, feeling Europe must develop a cruise missile of its own.

This is the point at which Germany enters his reckoning. As the strongest conventional military power in Western Europe the Federal Republic must be incorporated in Anglo-French nuclear power.

Does that mean a German finger on the nuclear trigger? "We Europeans," he says, "would do well to recall the tried and trusted two-key mechanism, which ought to apply to the Germans too.

"They may not have a finger on the trigger but they ought surely to play a part in deciding on safeguards for nuclear deterrence."

Theo M. Loch

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 14 June 1986)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Greens remain a problem for the SPD

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

A fundamental assumption is that there are two main political blocs: the CDU, CSU and FDP; and the SPD and the Greens.

But is this accurate? All these political groups are independent parties with their own images and principles.

Despite many disputes and differences of opinion on specific issues the coalition of CDU, CSU and FDP is not seriously at risk.

The relationship between the SPD and Greens is not so sound.

The Greens are divided on whether *or not to form* a coalition with the SPD, and the SPD is not exactly united.

Although the SPD and Greens share *the* desire to wrest political power from the ruling coalition in Bonn, they cannot agree on fundamental political principles.

This applies to foreign and security policy as well as to social policy.

It is no coincidence that the chairman of the SPD in Lower Saxony has pointed out that it should have been made clear to the electorate at a much earlier stage that the SPD is not willing to collaborate with the Greens.

Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau (SPD) has also repeatedly drawn a dividing line between his party and the Greens, and this without ifs and buts.

Some political experts feel that Rau would lose support in his own parliamentary party were he to canvass for next year's general election as the candidate of an SPD-Greens alliance.

Would SPD Opposition leader in Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schröder, have suffered a similar fate had the voters there given a possible SDP-Greens alliance the one seat they needed to take over power?

In all probability, Rau will be happy that the SPD was not obliged to face up to an acid test for a possible alliance with the Greens in Lower Saxony.

The election result there, however, does not confirm his strategy of obtaining political power via an absolute majority for his own party.

Until the SPD clearly states its position on *the* question of immediately "getting out of nuclear power" the Greens will retain the electoral potential the SPD needs to secure an absolute majority.

This would even be the case if — as is unlikely — the Greens failed to obtain the minimum 5 per cent of the total vote needed to get into parliament during the next general election.

Even Saarland's Premier and radical nuclear energy critic Oskar Lafontaine (SPD) feels that the party cannot risk such a drastic turnabout in its political position.

Such a fundamental move, he said, could only be made in agreement with the CDU, CSU and FDP.

He justified his surprising reservations by pointing out that a party cannot keep on changing its stance on nuclear policy just for the sake of government majorities.

This all explains why Chancellor Kohl is so optimistic.

Although there will be continuing efforts to conjure up the spectre of a Red-Green alliance, even Kohl cannot seriously believe in its materialisation.

The election result in Lower Saxony, where the CDU lost its absolute majority but will be able to govern in coalition with the FDP, also provides consolation and optimism.

But the result did show that an established mechanism is still working: that is that the FDP gets most of the votes the CDU loses.

Kohl is primarily interested in securing his own majority, i.e. as Chancellor.

It looks as if the FDP will safeguard that majority for him.

Since, voters will be persuaded that the general election is a landmark decision, as they were in Lower Saxony, the Chancellor's personal merits are unlikely to be of decisive importance.

The coalition will not regret this. It seems probable that the result in Lower Saxony will be repeated at a national level.

The only thing which could prevent this from happening is an event on a Chernobyl dimension, able to emotionalise the electorate.

This might occur if a summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachov fails due to international tension, and if most of blame is put on the USA.

Some of Bonn's more recent responses to American policies show that the government in Bonn regards Washington's volatility in the emotionally-charged fields of armament and disarmament as a risk factor in its own right.

In the event of a successful summit, on the other hand, the SPD would have one target less.

Chancellor Kohl could then capitalise on his friendship with the American president.

Brandt speaks out

It was the chairman of the SPD, Willy Brandt, who rather surprisingly stated that the nuclear reactor catastrophe in Chernobyl would have a detrimental effect on his party's performance in the Lower Saxony election.

Chernobyl, he explained, distracts attention from the real problems, i.e. unemployment, other social policy issues and the government's policy towards the trade unions.

These are indeed important and controversial issues for the coalition, which now prefers to ignore political "hot potatoes" such as the amendment to the Works Constitution Act and concentrate on welfare benefits.

The reaction to the government's amendment of labour law regulations ("strike paragraph") was a lesson in this respect.

Nevertheless, the SPD is unlikely to be able to win the general election by focusing on these issues.

According to the statistics there are over two million unemployed people.

The majority of people, however, no longer feel that their jobs are seriously at risk and are quite rightly more optimistic about what next year may bring.

And the majority acts according to its own interests. What else can one expect?

Hans Schmitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 17 June 1986)

A back-to-the-wall Kohl tightens up his game

Even before the victory of the Bonn coalition parties in the Lower Saxony state elections Helmut Kohl seemed a changed man.

He looked more concentrated, sounded more to-the-point, and acted more resolutely.

In his dealings with his party aides he appeared to be more relaxed and easy-going.

All this is symptomatic of a new brand of optimism. It's as if the Chancellor had been wading in mud and has now returned to terra firma.

One of his closest advisers said that "whenever he seems to be in a bad way he somehow recovers", adding that many people are likely to be surprised at his staying power.

Helmut Kohl always discovers his fighting qualities when his back is to the wall.

He has proved this in many awkward situations during his political career: during his fight for party chairmanship (1971), during his struggle to assert his position in Bonn (1976), in his efforts to save the joint parliamentary party of the CDU and CSU (1976), and in his decision to accept the choice of Franz Josef Strauss as Shadow Chancellor (1980).

During his period as Chancellor he has had plenty of opportunities to toughen himself up, particularly in the wake of numerous state election setbacks.

Many people quite rightly blamed him for certain political mishaps, but criticised him unjustly for others.

The unpredictable "Chernobyl factor" showed Kohl that his own political future was at stake.

Admittedly, his own position would only then have been in jeopardy if the Lower Saxony election had brought about a disaster, i.e. if the 1982 election result had been completely reversed and if the SPD had secured an absolute majority and the CDU's vote fallen below the 40 per cent mark.

He has not succumbed to the illusion that life can continue as it did before.

Some party colleagues had already begun to dissociate themselves from their Chancellor, blaming him for political errors and complaining about his government's policies.

Kurt Biedenkopf, whose critical remarks perhaps cost him a cabinet position, even claimed that an election defeat might be possible in Lower Saxony and that Helmut Kohl shouldn't be blamed in such an event.

Many observers felt this was a smoke signal in Bonn's direction, a hint that the CDU could do with a change at the top.

Baden-Württemberg's Premier, Lothar Späth, also made some rather disrespectful remarks about Helmut Kohl.

And, if it is true that Lower Saxony's Premier, Ernst Albrecht, also had some serious doubts about Kohl's future, it would be fair to claim that there was (is?) a substantial lack of confidence in Helmut Kohl within the CDU itself.

All this was jotted down in the Chancellor's "bad books".

It is not Helmut Kohl's style, however, to simply resign himself to a situation.

When in trouble he tries to find a solution by taking the offensive.

This approach was reflected in his decision immediately before the Lower Saxony election to appoint the mayor of Frankfurt, Walter Wallmann, as Bonn's new Environment Minister.

Kohl also cleverly extended the portfolio of Rita Süssmuth's Ministry of Family Affairs and Health to include Women's Affairs. These moves pulled CDU politicians out of their fatalistic collective depression.

This clearly had an effect on the election outcome in Lower Saxony, where, according to pre-election opinion polls, the CDU looked like losing everything.

The effect on Kohl's insistent critics, particularly in the media, is perhaps more significant.

Some of Chancellor Kohl's journalistic "persecutors" would seem to have realised that Kohl's soft exterior conceals more dogged traits.

It is no secret that Kohl blames the three weekly magazines *Spiegel*, *Stern* and *Zeit* for having worsened his public image by portraying a Chancellor who almost seems unable to read and write.

"Stayer" Kohl has never been one to shy away from decisions.

In response to Franz Josef Strauss's dissolution of the CDU/CSU's joint parliamentary party in Bonn in 1976, for example, Kohl changed the party statutes to allow the CDU to canvass as an independent party in Bavaria.

Kohl's dealings with CSU leader Strauss also shows that Kohl is a fighter.

After all, Helmut Kohl has headed his party for 14 years and has kept Strauss away from Bonn.

Although many of his political decisions may be regarded as incorrect or inadequate the list is at least an impressive one: rearmament, reorganisation of public finances, social spending cutbacks, family and environmental policy decisions (catalytic converter), easier border-crossing in the European Community, *continuity in Bonn's Ost-* and Deutschland politik, commitment to the principle of German unity in the face of Communist propaganda, the extension of military and community service periods, and the amendment of labour law regulations.

In many cases, his common sense prevented him from adding more controversial decisions to his list.

His refusal to dismiss a number of ministers (Lambsdorff, Wörner, Schwarz-Schilling and Zimmermann) may seem rather foolish in some cases.

However, it would have been all to easy to give in to public pressure just to gain more support at the expense of others.

It is true that some of Chancellor Kohl's closest advisers have often urged him to exercise his authority more decisively to put an end to coalition in-fighting and show his party colleagues and the public just who is pulling the strings.

Kohl, however, does not allow himself to be manipulated into playing to the gallery.

He sticks to his old-fashioned conviction that justice will prevail and that reason will eventually gain the upper hand.

These qualities of character induced two politicians of a completely different hue, Willy Brandt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, to predict that Kohl would be around for some time to come.

Genscher's prediction was made at a time when Kohl was still State Premier of Rhineland-Palatinate and no-one would have bet a pfennig on him making a career in Bonn.

Brandt's prediction was made after Kohl became Chancellor.

Kohl has realised over the years that each victory must be fought for and is never just handed over on a plate.

And Kohl knows how to fight.

Eduard Neumaier

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 June 1986)

■ ESPIONAGE

I spy, with my little eye, something . . .

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Spies have been spying on spies. And the spied-upon spies have been taking photographs of the spying spies. All the spies are (or might be) on the same side.

This spies-against-spies act is being played out in Hanover, in Lower Saxony, where staff of the local *Verfassungsschutz*, or counter-espionage agency, are being checked out.

The investigators' identities remain unknown. To maintain secrecy, they have sometimes resorted to Dr Strangelove-like tactics: sitting in one room with the door ajar while talking to members of the works council (employees' committee) in the next room. Sometimes talks take place in the same room with a screen in between.

The check began last year after the third most senior man in West German counter-intelligence, Hansjoachim Tiedge, went over to East Berlin.

The defection sparked off a panic in which agents were recalled from the East Bloc and questions were posed about how the warning signs (Tiedge was a chronic drunk and heavily in debt) had been ignored.

Tiedge had worked closely with the Hanover office and it was thought that *counter-espionage there would have to* start just about from scratch again.

Senior staff believe there are several East Berlin agents among Hanover's staff of more than 400.

So a specialist in weeding out East German agents and a former colleague of Tiedge in Cologne was appointed to head an in-house check. He and a staff of five were given an office and, at the beginning, no one else was told what they were doing.

Their job is to examine the files. If they see anything unusual, they call in a second group known as the Seven Samurai from outside Lower Saxony.

Hanover staff have only been told of the existence of the two groups. And they are upset about it. They say they don't object to the investigation, but they don't like the way it is being done.

They say feelings of suspicion have permeated the whole agency and morale has sunk. People don't like the feeling of being watched all the time.

There are allegations that the checks are becoming stricter in the wild hope of coming up with something to justify the cost of the two squads.

Hanover agents have now got onto the trail of the Seven Samurai and have photographed them spying on other Hanover agents. And the local agents also know where their office is: in a building behind Hanover jail.

The screening is to be extended to everyone at *Land* Ministries and government agencies who has anything to do with official secrets.

The programme was at the request of Peter Frisch, head of the agency's Lower Saxon division. Lower Saxony's Minister of the Interior, Egbert Möcklinghoff, gave a senior official the task of setting up a special unit to screen service staff.

His work was to be in addition to that of the in-house department already responsible for security checks.

Staff reckon the checks are not necessary and are worried that they will unjustifiable intrude into their private lives.

However, there seem to be no complaints about financial circumstances being investigated.

Staff mainly blame their boss, Social Democrat Peter Frisch, for the way the investigation is being handled.

He has long had the reputation of being unusually mistrustful, even for an intelligence agency chief.

He upset people several years ago when he enforced a total alcohol ban on agency premises. Since the Tiedge affair alcohol has not even been drunk at office birthday parties in Hanover.

Agency life under Herr Frisch, who greatly admires Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, CSU, for his hard line on internal security, is described as depressing.

Everyone is mistrustful. Silence descends on the canteen whenever a member of the special squad arrives on the scene.

So far neither the in-house squad nor the outside observers have effectively an Eastern agent.

There are growing suspicions that checks are being carried out even more strictly to come up with some finding or other to justify the existence of two expensive special squads.

Critics of the spies-versus-spies from Cologne are not opposed in principle to security checks of agency staff. They merely dislike the way they go about their work.

Everyone is made to feel he or she is a spy. Confidence in each other is declining.

Secrecy goes so far that not even the staff council, who are pledged to secrecy, are allowed to know who belongs to either squad.

They have not been supplied with proper documents of any kind, merely brief *details mentioning neither the agents' names* nor their ranks and naturally without passport photographs.

Agreement has, however, been reached between the staff council and Herr Frisch on how dealings between special squad members and the staff council are to be conducted.

The names of special squad officers who consult the staff council must not be divulged to the council, who do not get to see them either.

There is either a partition between the two or they converse from one room to the next, out of sight but within hearing through a door kept ajar.

Observers of the anti-espionage scene in Lower Saxony would have welcomed such strict security precautions five years ago when Karlheinz Hedtke in Garbsen, near Hanover, was identified as an East German spy (and not by the Hanover agency) yet gave the authorities the slip and gott away.

Hedtke, a broker, was on good terms with many Lower Saxon anti-espionage officials even though he was known to have contacts of his own in the East.

He attended works outings of the agency's unit detailed to cover the New Left and even the head of department and former head of the Bremen division found him unobjectionable.

So he was able to collect particulars of agency people's private lives for years for the East Berlin State Security Ministry.

He knew all about the financial circumstances, love affairs and drinking habits of agency staff. He and a former secretary at the Hanover head office kept an eye on agency affairs for the East.

Was a thorough inquiry ever held into his many contacts among the staff? Serving members of the agency in Hanover doubt it.

Ulrich Neufert

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 14 June 1986)

Infra-red ray is East Berlin agents' cross-border hotline

East German spies often use infra-red rays to transmit intelligence data back from the West, West German counter-espionage officials say.

The infra-red intercom device consists of two dish antennas linked by a powerful, bundled infra-red ray. Both transmission and reception are possible.

The power source used is a simple battery-powered flashlight into which a cable is wired in place of the light bulb.

Infra-red radiation cannot be eavesdropped on and is virtually impossible to detect. The device was discovered among the effects of an East German spy recently unmasked by the *Verfassungsschutz*, the Federal Republic of Germany's Cologne-based counter-espionage agency.

Use of infra-red telecom presupposes a direct and unhindered visual link with the other side. Fog, rain or snow must not obscure the link.

The device must also be positioned and sighted exactly if the bundled radiation is to score a direct hit on the reception antenna.

The unit is mounted on a tripod and justified with a sighting device. As soon as contact is made the agent can start talking to his opposite number or transmit or receive a prerecorded message.

The East German agent who used the device now in the West's possession regularly exchanged information across the intra-German border with a building in East Germany at prearranged times.

The 1985 *Verfassungsschutz* report cites last year's spectacular espionage affairs to show how painstakingly East Berlin and other East Bloc countries take their time to set up agents sent to the Federal Republic.

Counter-espionage experts are working on the assumption that high-ranking *Verfassungsschutz* official Hansjoachim



Tiedge, who defected to East Berlin last August, will by now have told East German State Security Ministry officials all he knows (and what he knew as an insider in Cologne is admitted to have been comprehensive).

So the East Berlin intelligence agency will have been able to eliminate mistakes of its own and further improve its methods. "The damage done is definitely serious," the report says. Counter-espionage methods have yet to be reorganised in the Federal Republic.

The Willners are another case the report admits to have been particularly damaging. The Willners, husband and wife, defected to East Berlin last September.

Herr Tiedge had been responsible for investigating the couple and will have briefed the East German authorities in East Berlin. So the Willners broke off a holiday in Spain and headed straight for East Germany when their cover seemed sure to be blown.

Herbert Willner worked for the FDP's Friedrich Naumann Foundation. His wife worked in the Chancellor's Office. Radio equipment suitable for use by intelligence agents was found in their apartment.

Herbert Willner came to the Federal Republic in 1961. His "escape" may well have been staged by the Ministry of State Security.

Sonja Lüneburg (if that was her real name), who worked for many years as Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann's secretary, came to the Federal Republic in 1967 under what is presumed to have been an assumed name.

The real Sonja Lüneburg lived in West Berlin but has been missing since 1966. The FDP, Herr Bangemann's party, is presumed to have been her intelligence target, the over 300-page report says.

Frau Lüneburg (or whoever she was) disappeared without trace early last August. On 24 August Margarete Höke, a secretary in the Federal President's Office, was arrested.

She had been approached in 1968 by a man claiming to be a student by the name of Franz Becker. She is said to have admitted to having divulged to him department details from the President's Office and facts on file supplied by the *Bundesnachrichtendienst*, the Munich-based intelligence agency.

Ursula Richter and her friend Lorenz Betzing are presumed to have been warned before decamping from Bonn on 16 or 17 August 1985. The report indirectly suggests that Herr Tiedge may have tipped them off.

Frau Richter also used a false identity when she arrived in West Germany at the end of 1964. She worked for the Expellees' Association in Bonn and relayed to East Berlin information about post-war refugees from the former German Eastern territories.

Lorenz Betzing, latterly a messenger at the Bundeswehr data processing department in Bonn, has attracted scant media attention in the Federal Republic.

He first worked in 1964 as a fitter for a firm that from 1966 installed equipment in the secret government bunker in the Ahr valley, near Bonn.

From 1969 to 1972 he worked for a firm that serviced the lifts in the Bundestag. For a while he even worked as a civilian employee with the US forces in Germany.

His apartment was found to contain computer printouts listing Bundeswehr manpower and equipment. He was probably a very senior East German agent who went unnoticed.

East Bloc intelligence [illegible] every possible means of persuading visitors from the West to do espionage work for them. Contact may be made at the Leipzig Fair or while they are staying with relatives in East Germany.

Blackmail is nothing unusual and industrial espionage is said to have been intensified. The East is very keen to come by Western high tech.

Agents are sent out by the score from East Bloc embassies and missions in the Federal Republic. An estimated 70 per cent of the 83 diplomats at the Polish mission in Cologne are said to be agents.

There are fears that the East Bloc might succeed in gaining access to computers run by industry or the armed forces. So special precautions are planned without delay.

Industrial data protection and precautions taken by the authorities must continue to be improved.

Friedrich Kuhn

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 June 1986)

■ PERSPECTIVE

An eye-witness remembers the day the workers rebelled against paradise

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in East Germany on 17 June 1953 to protest against the regime. The day before, construction workers in East Berlin had gone on strike against a 10-per-cent increase in their work norms. They marched in closed ranks to the city centre and were joined on the way by other workers and bystanders. They called for the higher norms to be cancelled, for the government to resign and for free elections. They also declared a general strike. On 17 June demonstrations assumed the proportion of a popular uprising. By midday the first shots were fired by Soviet soldiers and the East German people's police at a protest meeting outside the government building in East Berlin. Soviet and East German leaders sent in tanks to crush the rebellion. This account was told to Martina Stein of *Kieler Nachrichten* by an eye-witness who worked for VEB Roter Oktober near Magdeburg in 1953 and experienced at first hand the long-range effects of what went on in Berlin.

I remember it all as clearly as if it was only a few days and not 33 years ago. The firm where I worked as a master-craftsman was in a small town near Magdeburg. I had taken two days off to spend with the family in Leipzig over the weekend as usual.

People were excited. For weeks various government decrees had gone beyond bearable bounds.

Self-employed people had to surrender their food ration cards. Workers earning over 500 marks a month were no longer entitled to workmen's day-return tickets.

That affected me directly. It meant I could now only afford to visit my family once a month or so.

In the train to Leipzig there was serious criticism of the new decrees. Even a man with a Party badge in his lapel chimed in.

"I have agreed with every move, good or bad, the government has made in the past," he said, "but this is taking matters too far. They want to finish off the self-employed."

"The gang are really riding high at the moment — and are brazen-faced enough to call themselves a workers' government!"

On 17 June, a Wednesday, my wife worked an early shift. I took the children to kindergarten and walked to the main railway station. The trams were bursting at the seams. There was no sign of anything unusual being about to happen.

My train left at about 6 a.m. I tried to get some sleep but just couldn't forget the ration card move.

The range of goods on sale in the HO (state-owned cooperative) stores was miserable, quite apart from the exorbitant prices. And "ordinary" shops had nothing whatever to sell.

So self-employed people had no choice but to travel to West Berlin to shop, always assuming they could afford to do so at a black market exchange rate of 8:1.

Besides, they ran the risk of having their shopping confiscated by ticket inspectors on the train on their way back home.

When I got back just after 10 a.m. our landlord was standing by his taxi outside the station.

He had been waiting for me, rushed at me, caught hold of me by the shoulders and said: "They've had it now, once and for all!"

I asked him what had happened. "Happened?" he asked. "They've sent tanks into Berlin. It's an uprising. Just imagine! The government and Party are being sent packing.

"It's supposed to have started in Magdeburg too. I've just come from there and am heading straight back. Maybe we can celebrate liberation this evening."

Wherever you went people were standing in groups in the street. The atmosphere was part worried, part cheerfully excited.

I was worried about my wife and our two children. What if they were to come under cross-fire on their way home? I had no illusions that the Russians would look on idly as their puppet government was given the boot.

When I arrived at work for the 3 p.m. shift the Roter Oktober works was like a beehive. Workers at my assembly line whistled, sang and laughed. There weren't many Party members among them.

Even Party members were clearly delighted. My friend Manfred, who worked at the beginning of the assembly line, said as I went past: "Otto, we've made it. The bastards will never manage to recover from this blow."

He was a Party member and a member of the Party's works branch. After Party meetings he used to take me to one side and call round at home in the evening if there was no opportunity at work.

Then he told me the latest news and decisions and names of people who were detailed to keep an eye on me and, if they could, provoke me.

Were it not for his help I could never have succeeded as a non-member of the Party in avoiding all pitfalls and holding on to my job.

During the afternoon excitement came to a head when the noise of Russian tanks rumbling past was heard above the noise of the factory.

Workers rushed to the windows and gazed in dismay at the endless line of tanks rumbling through town to the east.

During the first break one of the men who worked in the yard said there were stickers all over town saying a curfew would be enforced from 9 p.m. and no-one was allowed to leave home from then on.

I went over to the offices but they were as good as empty. In one of the corridors I ran across Günter, a Party member and a suspicious character known to be an informer.

He seemed to spend all day walking round the works and turned up wherever two or three people joined in conversation. I asked him what I should do. He promised everyone would be issued with special passes entitling them to return home safely after work.

Women and girls said during the next break they had no intention of staying in the factory after dark. They wanted to clock off at 8 p.m. What good would a pass do them? Many Russians would simply tear it up.

To reassure them I promise to make sure they could get home safely or, failing that, leave early. It was a difficult position for me. I wasn't entitled to shut down the assembly line ahead of time.

So I tried to reach the Party secretary or someone from the management. No-one was available. I rang the police and asked whether they could see about 700 workers home when the shift ended at 11 p.m.

After an endless wait a voice at the other end of the line said: "No, we can't. At the moment we have neither men nor vehicles to spare."

"Please understand," I explained, "that we are all worried and upset about the curfew. To prevent unpleasant occurrences I wonder if you would agree to me ending the shift at 8 p.m. to allow people to get home before the curfew starts."

"Jawohl, Kollege," the police officer said, "go ahead and do that."

Just before 8 I shut the assembly line down, suddenly to be faced by Comrade Günter who asked what was going on.

I told him we were calling it a day. "But why?" he asked. "The shift doesn't end until 11."

"Let me remind you that a curfew is in force from nine," I said. "Besides, people refuse to go home in the dark because they're afraid of the occupying power."

"Why ever are they worried?" he asked. "The occupying power is here to protect us." "To protect you, perhaps. But we take a different view." After everyone had left I went on my rounds as usual, followed by Comrade Günter. He suddenly said:

"That really is rich. First you make decisions only the managing director can take, then you talk big. We know what that means. That's the tactics of the class enemy."

My nerves were on edge. I spat out everything that had been on my mind for months and years.

"What is your opinion of our government?" he asked. I said it had long forfeited any right to call itself a workers' government and that after all that had happened I no longer felt I could trust it in the least.

He shook my hand in a friendly manner and said: "Plain words at last. This is strictly between ourselves." I knew he would be writing a report on what I had said without delay.

I was tired out. The Russian tanks based at a camp 10km west of the town had not yet returned. It was quiet outside.

My landlord and his wife said there had been reports of fires in Berlin and Magdeburg and of Russians firing straight at the lines of marching workers.

Rumours persisted in the days that followed. All we knew for sure was that the uprising had come to a sticky end.

I expected to be arrested at any moment. But nothing happened. The management and Party secretary were clearly intent on handling the staff with kid gloves. There hadn't been open unrest at the works, after all.

The Party first sought to softpedal in a bid to consolidate its position. Party and government outdid each other in self-criticism and admissions of guilt.

The government was said to have undertaken immediate measures to end the hardship that had occurred in preceding weeks.

The self-employed were going to be issued with fresh ration cards. The workers were going to be entitled to workmen's day-return tickets again. Work norms were to be reduced to the old level.

This joviality continued for weeks and some people were tempted to believe in the new, softer line the Party seemed to have taken.

Manfred told me more than once to leave for the West. "They're gunning for you here," he said, "for you and everyone who risked a lip on 17 June. Your names are all in files specially compiled for the purpose."

I waited another week, not feeling sure what I should do. I didn't at all relish the idea of leaving my family to their own devices. Yet I felt under constant observation.

Then my misgivings vanished. When I returned home from shift one day my landlady gave me a copy of the local paper with an article that said:

"Otto Blank (me), a master-craftsman at VEB Roter Oktober, proved an enemy of the people, a Trotskyite and an enemy of our workers' and peasants' government on 17 June, having earlier said more than once that work was no place for politics."

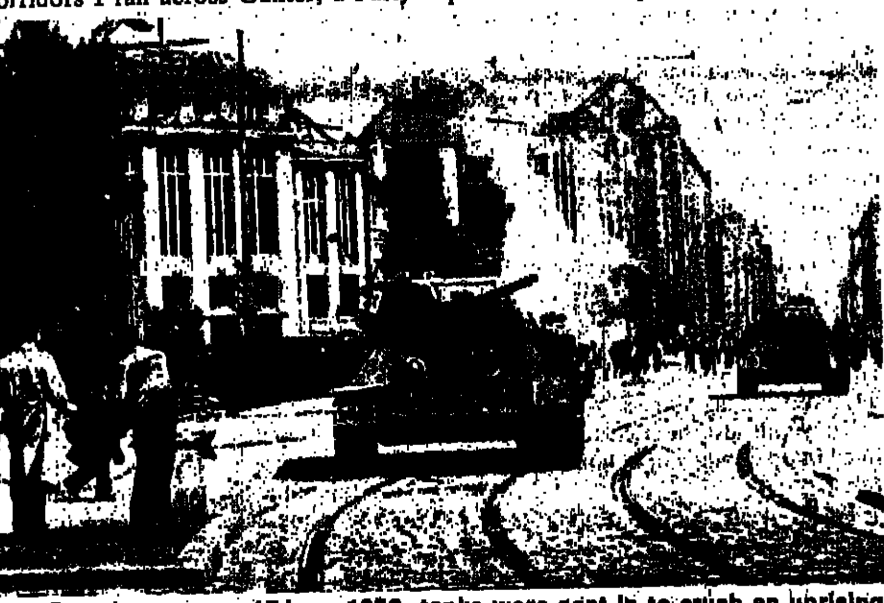
That was the opening shot. Manfred, who helped me to pack, said: "It's scheduled to start tomorrow. I've just come from a Party meeting. They have the prosecution case ready.

"You are supposed to have known about the attempted putsch in Leipzig and to have been sent here to canvass support among the workers."

I made it to Berlin and travelled to the western sector by public transport, which you could still do in those days.

Martina Stein

(Kieler Nachrichten, 16 June 1986)



The Party's over: on 17 June 1953, tanks were sent in to crush an uprising in East Berlin. (Photo: dpa)

■ THE WORKFORCE

Chemicals industry deal blurs distinction between wage and salary earners

The occupational distinction in German industry and crafts between *Arbeiter* (wage earners) and *Angestellte* (salaried employees) is gradually disappearing.

Although there are still plenty of wage-earning "blue-collar" workers their status no longer differs that substantially from that of a member of the technical and salaried staff.

Wage earners are often regarded as a "declining social group", but this only refers to the considerable numerical shift in favour of the number of salaried employees.

This shift is the result of the growing importance of service industries, in particular banks and insurance companies.

The generally manual jobs of the wage earners, on the other hand, have been much more adversely affected since the early 1970s by rationalisation and the introduction of new technologies than the jobs of salaried employees not directly involved in actual production.

A new joint "collective pay agreement" in the chemicals industry for both wage and salary earners may bring the status of the two occuptional categories closer together.

Agreements of this kind have already been drawn up in other industries, for example, in the food industry or in the oil companies Esso and Shell.

However, the new agreement now concluded in Frankfurt applies for the first time to all 680,000 employees in the West German chemicals industry.

It therefore represents a milestone along the path towards a greater "levelling-out" of remuneration practices for wage and salary earners.

At the same time, it documents the development of today's workers from the day labourer of the 19th century to the recipient of a monthly income.

The new kind of collective pay agreement stipulates that in future wages and salaries should be laid down in accordance with the same criteria, regardless of whether the person in question is a foreman, a laboratory technician, a skilled maintenance worker or a computer operator in a control room.

The differences between wage and salary earners will still exist, however, with regard to dismissals protection or continued pay in cases of sickness.

Furthermore, it will not be easy to cast aside traditional clichés concerning the two groups.

Many people still think of the salaried employee as someone who always wears a tie, and even the expressions used to describe wage and salary earners underlines the differences: the salaried employee goes to do his service or to the office, whereas the wage earner simply goes to work.

A joint pay agreement for the two groups is first and foremost a long overdue move towards a fairer pay system.

If the principle applies that the same monthly income should be paid for the same or comparable work then there is no reason why a skilled worker in the chemicals industry who has had three years training should earn several hundred marks less than a comparable (but salaried) laboratory technician.

Bearing in mind the current income differences it will take many years before a common pay scale is agreed upon.

Up to now, the pay packets of wage earners have been topped up year by



year in the effort to gradually reach salaried income levels.

Of course, this kind of "redistribution" of income could prove problematic if salaried employees feel that they stand to lose out in some way.

The science of job assessment, which serves as a basis for fixing wage and salary levels, already has sound and generally accepted yardsticks.

Now that agreement has been reached that school education and occuptional training, professional experience, intellectual and physical demands, the degree of concentration, responsibility and environmental factors such as noise, dust or dampness are the decisive aspects for assessment there is no longer a case for operating a double standard for wage and salary earners.

Joint pay agreements do not mean that wage and salary earners will have the same income in future.

The work they do, however, will be assessed according to the same criteria.

In reality, especially at the production stage, the demands made of wage and salary earners are so similar that the cliché of the physically hard and monotonous work of wage earners no longer applies. Monotonous activities are now carried out by machines, robots or microprocessors.

A skilled worker in a fully automated chemical plant, rolling mill or chocolate factory is expected to be highly conscientious and careful.

In addition, he is expected to take part in advanced training courses and keep abreast of the latest technological developments.

He assumes considerable responsiblity for the disruption-free running of the plant.

Standstill periods and irregular maintenance and repair work can cost the company a lot of money.

Production breakdowns demand a high degree of independence and responsiblity from the operators in the control room.

Physically strenuous work, one of the classic features of the worker on the production line, is gradually disappearing.

What is needed today is professional expertise, powers of judgement and the ability to make decisions which require tremendous concentration.

All these are stress factors which are just as typical for the jobs of salaried employees.

This trend is not just typical for the chemicals industry.

Joint pay agreements, therefore, will gradually become the norm in all other branches of industry too.

In the metal industry, for example, there have been negotiations on a common monthly income for wage and salary earners for many years.

Günter Volkmar, chairman of the commerce, banking and insurance union HBV, is convinced that salary earners are beginning to realise that they are employees just like everyone else.

The remaining ideological and historical objections raised by certain salaried employees as well as by certain employers to any change in their privileged status are also thinning out.

The traditional arguments in favour of preferential treatment for salaried employees no longer hold true, i.e. their greater identification with the firm and hence their greater loyalty to their employers, which is rewarded by a greater degree of social security.

It is doubtful, however, whether such status alignment efforts will lead to a classification of wage and salary earners as just "employees".

On-the-job realities and the response and attitude of the salary earners indicate that there is a long way to go before wage and salary earners feel that they "share a common fate as victims of rationalisation" (a trade union claim).

Only 22 per cent of all male and only 14 per cent of all female salaried employees are members of a trade union, a much lower degree of organisation than among wage earners.

Many salaried employees have a greater leaning towards individuality and a more pronounced careerist mentality.

Nevertheless, the unions are hoping that a joint pay agreement will help bring about a "stronger sense of togetherness" between wage and salary earners.

A more common stance would help unions when negotiating collective bargaining agreements.

It is not clear, however, whether all the union's fond hopes will come true.

Frank Bünte

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 22 June 1986)

Agreements gives parents long-term leave

Employees at the Ludwigshafen-based BASF chemicals group will next month be able to take long-term leave after the birth of a child.

Single and married men and women will be able to stop working until after the child's first school year, when they will be guaranteed employment comparable to their old job.

The law lays down only maternity leave in the later stages of pregnancy and for a short time afterwards.

Under the BASF scheme, if the mother or father does not want to stop work entirely, he or she will be able to work part time for 20 hours a week.

One condition the company is insisting on for those wanting their jobs back: they must maintain professional standards. It doesn't say how.

The works council, which reached agreement with management after three years of talks, is optimistic that the reinstatement commitment is a guarantee.

Works council member Lucia Tempsch de Weiss said the number of jobs and the amount of comings and goings is so high that the company would have no trouble sticking to the agreement.

She said that women who look after their children full time generally later find it hard to get jobs.

She feels that the promise of continued employment will be motivation enough for mothers or fathers to find time to attend advanced training courses.

They will also be able to keep their hand in by standing in as holiday or sick relief.

BASF itself does not offer special courses.

A six-month readjustment period is granted for workers who return after a certain period out of work.

It cannot be ruled out that the person returning to work may find himself/herself in a lower salary bracket.

The company itself feels that the programme will help relieve the job market situation.

If enough mothers or fathers decide to temporarily stop working more trainees could be employed or new employees with limited employment contracts.

The BASF management realises that this programme will provide the company with a long-term reservoir of qualified staff.

According to a press statement, the company is convinced that "in view of the continuingly substantial drop in the birth rate in the Federal Republic of Germany with its long-term effects on the number of job applicants and the pension insurance scheme family promotion measures must be an integral part of a meaningful company personnel policy."

Only time will tell just to what extent this programme contributes towards greater occuptional equality for women.

Ursula Engelen-Kefer, vice-president of the Federal Labour Office, feels that the programme is a good start, but also points out that it can "cut both ways".

It remains to be seen whether women who take advantage of the programme still have good promotion prospects when they return.

On the other hand, the programme does provide an opportunity for parents who want to have children and a career.

"In the final analysis, it's a question of income, of whether someone can afford to opt out of a job for such a long period without financial support."

The Bayer chemicals group in Leverkusen is also currently working on a similar programme, but has not yet given details.

Up to now, only single mothers were allowed to stay off work for up to three years.

It is still not clear whether the new arrangement at Bayer will also apply to men.

So far the Federal Association of Chemical Industry Employers and the Federal Association of German Employers' Associations (BDA) have not shown much interest in the Ludwigshafen model.

Burghard Jahn, the press spokesman for the Association of Chemical Industry Employers, does not believe that the BASF idea will serve as a model for other chemicals companies.

Dorothea Müller-Hagen, responsible for in-plant personnel policy at the BDA, emphasised:

"We do not generally support such a programme, since not every plant can afford it."

Brigitte Klemme from the chemicals' trade union IG Chemie sees a completely different obstacle to the success of this project:

"The question is whether men will join in and also take advantage of the programme or whether, in the final analysis, the child's upbringing is still left up to the women."

Beate Reimer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 6 June 1986)

■ MOTORING

Insurers blame bogus car-radio theft claims for driving up premiums

Motor insurers are to increase fire and theft premiums by up to 30 per cent this year. They say false claims, particularly for car radios, are driving up the cost of settling claims.

An insurers' inquiry reveals that last year, 260,000 car radios were stolen. The cost of claims, including repairing the damage caused by their theft, was 270 million marks.

The survey estimates that 20 per cent of these claims were lies. Police, however, think the figure is much higher.

Premiums are to rise by 30 per cent where policyholders do not agree on an excess policy — that is to pay a certain amount of any claim first. "Stricter standards" are to be used in settling claims.

The stricter standards envisaged will include a new central computer file listing all radios worth over DM1,000 that are reported stolen.

They will, of course, only include radios with a serial number. Claimants can also expect to be subjected to mis*trustful* enquiries and spot checks.

They will find it harder to claim a refund without a proper invoice or bill for the item reported as stolen. Spot checks will be aimed at making sure there are traces of a reported theft.

To make the settlement of claims swifter and less problematic, this being a major sales argument insurers field, motor insurers and the police are to devise a questionnaire aimed at making the theft of more expensive equipment "more specifically verifiable."

The figures quoted by insurers in support of the need, as they see it, to be stricter in settling claims are undeniably impressive.

Last year alone roughly 260,000 car radios were stolen. The cost of claims was roughly DM270m.

There were a further 715,000 claims for theft of car parts. They cost DM420m to settle and this figure looked like increasing.

While the number of thefts may have declined the cost of settling claims has increased. So premiums have to be increased, at least for policyholders who take a dim view of paying the first DM300 of each claim they make.

The exact increase will not be known until this autumn, but insurers' press conferences have made it clear that fire and theft policies are going to cost twice as much if policyholders prefer not to pay the first DM300.

The one variety of policy will cost maybe 30 per cent more than at present while the other will cost perhaps 20 per cent less.

Either way, policyholders carry the can. Insurers will merely realign the total cost of providing this category of motor insurance.

These two items of bad news, higher premiums and stricter standards, come just in time for the holiday season. They are unlikely to make holidaymakers bound for warmer climes jump for joy.

A further point insurers make is that one car radio in four reported stolen is claimed to have been stolen abroad and one car in three reported stolen vanishes abroad.

Car thieves clearly have an eye on quality. "They prefer big, heavy saloons such as Mercedes and BMW and fast cars such as Porsches or Golf GTDs," says Peter Gauly of the Motor Insurers' Association.

New cars are particular favourites. The same goes for car radios, the most expensive single item reported stolen from cars.

Caution and outright mistrust at service stations and lay-bys are essential abroad, and the same goes for accidents, which are often faked.

Otherwise claimants can be sure to have trouble with the insurance too when they return. Doors and windows must be closed and locked: Steering wheels must be locked too.

That not only makes life harder for car thieves; it also ensures that the claimant is not accused of gross negligence, entitling the insurer to refuse to pay up.

If a car is still stolen the owner seems sure to have much greater trouble in filing a claim that sticks. "The theft must be reported to the police immediately, of course," Herr Gauly says. The claimant must submit a copy of the police report form with his claim.

He must also notify the insurer in writing. From the time the insurer is notified the claimant must wait a month, during which he must take the car back if it is found.

He must do so without ifs or buts and regardless where it is found. Insurers pay the second-class rail fare to the place where it is found, but only for distances of up to 1,500km.

The telegram to the insurer, and the first claims form submitted are only the first steps in a long and thorny patch of bureaucratic hassle with officialdom and insurers.

The claimant can only be at his ease and wait out the month once he has reported the theft to the German police on his return from abroad and sent in to the insurer the car keys and papers.

If the car is found after the initial month the claimant has what may be a tricky choice. He can either take the car back or pocket the money.

If the car or the stolen part is less than two years old and the claimant is its first owner the insurer usually refunds the full price as new.

If the car is older, only its market value is refunded.

Klaus Götz

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 14 June 1986)

Bid to clean up mug-and-rape multi-storey car-park image

Security precautions are to be improved at multi-storey and underground car parks to try and cut the amount of theft and sex offences.

The Frankfurt-based Association of Multi-Storey Car Parks is putting proposals to its annual meeting. One idea is for a newly devised key-ring SOS alarm with a flashing light to attract attention.

The association's Wolfgang Penka says that there is no more crime in car parks than other public places. But they are perceived as being places of crime: "There is hardly a thriller these days in which gangsters don't mug their victims in a multi-storey car park or stage breakneck chases round underground car parks," he says.

Some recent notable cases had increased the problem: in Aachen a man known as the Car Park Rapist has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. He waylaid several women in multi-storey car parks in Aachen and Essen last year, stealing their handbags and raping them.

The trial made the drawbacks of multi-storey car parks painfully clear. Dark corners are ideal hideaways for offenders, and lighting leaves much to be desired.

The association has advised its members to install more lighting. New car parks are to be designed without nooks and crannies.

Many existing facilities have closed-circuit TV cameras and guards at a control panel. In unmanned parks where tickets are issued and checked by machines the TV monitor screens are at the nearest police station.

"Guards are to go on patrol more often," Herr Penka says, "but having each storey manned by one is ruled out by the cost. Parking charges would have to be doubled."

The association realises that the fear many motorists feel has started to hit business. When roadside parking lots are full and car parks are half-empty it isn't just because they charge more.

Women in particular often feel most afraid in empty multi-storey car parks in the evening.

Frankfurt car parks have even installed police emergency phones, but they are no guarantee of protection, as a news item last month showed.

On 22 May a 29-year-old woman was threatened by an armed man in the lift of a Frankfurt multi-storey car park. He forced her into a dark corner on the seventh storey out of sight of the TV cameras. She had no chance of phoning for help. He assaulted her.

A Mannheim firm has designed and applied for patent rights to a new safety device: a keyring with a flashing light registered by sensors in car park ceilings.

A computer alarms the guards and the police and indicates where the SOS call originated. A similar device is said to protect cars from being broken into by thieves.

"When you have the keyring in your hand you can trigger the alarm whenever you want," says a spokesman for the manufacturer. "An offender can hardly stop you."

But to avoid abuse each device is fitted out with one flash unit only. After use it has to be replenished. After the alarm has been sounded cameras will film everyone who leaves the car park.

The spokesman is convinced multi-storey car parks that use the system will gain so many new customers that the cost will soon be recouped.

At present the 400,000 parking lots in public multi-storey and underground car parks are on average used only two and a half times a day. Many are empty, especially in the evening.

Horst Zimmermann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 June 1986)

■ BUSINESS

Photocopier makers want a carbon copy — whoops! I'll run that off again

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Last year, Europe's typewriter manufacturers appealed to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to try and get some protection from Japanese competitors.

The court imposed additional anti-dumping duties of up to 35 per cent on Far Eastern producers — which practically pushed the Japanese out of the market.

This year, Europe's photocopier makers have high hopes that the court will do the same for them.

But there is one big difference between the typewriter and the copier market.

Europe is represented in the typewriter market with Olympia and the Olivetti/Triumph-Adler group but the Japanese more or less dominate the copier business.

The only other suppliers with any significant say are American companies: Xerox, IBM and Kodak.

The Europeans are waging a proxy war on their behalf.

Market observers doubt whether such a strategy makes sense, since all three American suppliers almost exclusively produce large copiers, which are not marketed by the Japanese.

Smaller copiers, even those which still bear the name Xerox or Kodak, are already produced in factories in the Far East.

As in the case of the entertainments electronics and phototechnology markets Western manufacturers would again seem to have missed the boat on the copier market.

Above all, they have failed to emulate their Japanese rivals by turning expensive technological innovations into cheap mass-produced articles.

The Japanese achieved this by using simple machine designs from the consumer goods industries and modern manufacturing methods.

Former monopolist Xerox is itself to blame for enabling the Japanese to move into this market.

The Xerox group runs its European subsidiary (Rank Xerox) like a branch office, even though it only has a 51 per cent stake in the company.

For over a decade only Xerox was allowed to manufacture its copiers along the lines of the dry copier system developed by Chester Carlson in 1938.

Over the years it developed increasingly expensive and technologically complicated copiers.

Xerox had already moved out of the market segment for cheaper small copiers after its patent protection expired in 1970.

Other companies then opted for the Xerox technique for their copiers instead of the user-unfriendly wet copier.

The first companies to launch these copiers on the market did not come from Asia, but from the United States itself (IBM), the Federal Republic of Germany (Agfa-Gevaert), and Britain (Statiscop).

These companies soon moved into the German market.

Olympia, Kalle Infotec and, as the first competitor from the Far East, Konishtiroku followed suit.

Konishtiroku is better known today as "U-Bix" and is one the Xerox's toughest competitors.

Most newcomers, however, got off to a poor start; their copiers turned out to be flops.

Companies from the Far East were the exception to the rule: Konishiroku was already offering its customers a product range of four copiers in 1975 — a variety which only Xerox could rival at that time.

The Japanese now dominate the small copier market.

Roughly 85 per cent of their rapidly increasing copier output is earmarked for exports, 35 per cent for Europe alone.

The volume of copiers bound for export markets is growing fast: one million copiers in 1982, 2.7 million by the end of this year, and an expected 4 million copiers by 1990.

Small copiers catering for an average capacity requirement of up to 400 copies per month and costing between DM2,300 and DM3,000 all come from the Land of the Rising Sun.

Asian manufacturers also dominate the market for medium-size copiers designed for a capacity of up to 10,000 copies per month.

The Americans only dominate the market for large copiers, which often cost more than DM200,000.

Bearing this situation in mind, it looks as if the list of companies seeking legal help from the Court of Justice in Luxembourg are hoping to bolster Xerox's position on the market and then find a niche in the shadow of this mighty American enterprise.

Xerox is hard hit by the Japanese challenge and has been forced to look for new fields of activity.

The group's decision to move into office automation after years of falling profits and permanent management crises would seem to be a wise one.

One of the "joint plaintiffs" in Luxembourg is Océ van der Grinten (Netherlands), which, like Xerox, has its own products in the upper price and performance segment of this market.

As for Olivetti (Italy) and OPF/Tetras (France) only a few machines are domestically produced, whereas most copiers are manufactured by Japanese competitors.

For many years, the German plaintiff in this group, the company Develop in Gerlingen near Stuttgart, was the only European copier manufacturer which could keep pace with the product range offered by the Japanese and even export a cheap copier model to the "den of the lion" itself.

The fact that this company is on the list of those seeking legal protection from Japanese competition is a sad symbol for the decline of the European copier industry.

Minolta has acquired a 75 per cent majority holding and thus created a basis for European production should the duties imposed by Luxembourg be so stiff that imports alone prove unsellable.

Minolta is not the only Japanese company which has made provisions.

All Japanese copier manufacturers have at least drawn up subcontracting agreements with European suppliers, who can then market the copiers produced in the Far East under their own respective brand names.

In addition, Canon is planning to step up production in the Federal Republic of Germany and France.

Ricoh intends assembling copiers as well as cameras in future in Britain.

Mita is expanding in Hong Kong which is hardly likely to be covered by any European ban on Japanese products, and Toshiba is negotiating a joint venture with the French company Rhône— Poulenc.

If, as experts expect, the Luxembourg Court does decide to increase duties on Far East imports this is not likely to save the European copier industry.

Such a move would only reward the far-sightedness of Japanese companies which are more than ready to move into off-shore production regions.

Behind closed doors the Japanese admit that although copiers in Europe are often cheaper than in Japan and some business transactions do not cover costs, their aim is not to oust European companies from the market.

The real cut-throat competition, they claim, is between the Japanese firms themselves.

Paul Dietz

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 14 June 1986)

Europe takes a new look at monopolies rules

The Commission of the European Communities is the highest cartel authority of the Community of Twelve.

In its 15th Competition Policy Report the Commission presents a number of landmark decisions and new guidelines.

The report examines the principles according to which fair competition can be safeguarded in the Community in line with a general ban on cartels and subsidies.

This approach corresponds with the fundamental economic policy principles laid down in the treaties signed in Rome (EEC) and Paris (ECSC).

In the preamble to the report the Commission expresses, albeit not explicitly, its support for the principles of the German social market economy system:

"All member states of of European Community are ... committed ... to human rights in ... in a market economy system the balance of interests is brought about by effective competition ... Competition policy should guarantee that the rights of many are not undermined by a few who abuse their market power."

Dr Manfred Caspari, the Director-General for Competition in the Commission and — responsible to the Irish Community Commissioner, Peter Sutherland — the most senior official in this field, emphasised that the Commission wishes to promote a "dynamic and progressive form of competition", i.e. innovations, new products and processing techniques.

Companies, said Caspari, must be forced to repeatedly come up with new ideas so as to increase competitiveness on an international scale.

The Commission has no objections to government research and development subsidies for small and medium-sized firms, which "find it more difficult than larger firms to obtain public money".

Brussels is "unrelenting", however, with regards to production limitations.

Caspari emphasised that the Brussels authority deserves the credit for preventing a cartel of fire insurance companies, ensuring that the Deutsche Bundespost has no monopoly over sales of cordless telephones, and putting an end to gentlemen's agreements in the spectacle, lens and contact lens sectors in the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy.

An agreement between the German Siemens company and the Japanese Fanuc Ltd. was prohibited because it would have enabled the selling of machine tool computers in Europe at prices which would have been 35 per cent higher than those in the Far East.

In this case, the Commission imposed a fine of one million Ecu (DM2.15m).

Interlübke demanded that its dealers sell its furniture in accordance with the "manufacturer's retail price policy". The Commission stepped in and put an end to such practises.

On the other hand, Grundig is permitted up until 1989 to set minimum standards for the qualification of its dealers and the furnishing of its commercial premises.

Thyssen Sonnenberg was allowed to buy the entire share capital of a Frankfurt-based scrap trading company, even though both companies together account for 27 per cent of the German scrap market.

However, there are several other big scrap traders in Germany and the import ratio is 17 per cent.

Furthermore, the combined share of the two companies in the Community's scrap market is only 8 per cent; the Commission decided that competition was guaranteed.

Commenting on the subsidisation policy in the coal production sector the Commission stated that a continuing promotion of coal industry cannot remain "the priority objective", since only "very high subsidies" would be able to keep domestic coal competitive against imported coal.

The aim should be, says the Commission's report, to improve the competitive strength of European coal — "under conditions which are acceptable from a social and regional point of view".

Statistics show that each ton of coal in England is subsidised by 76.43 Ecu, which is much higher than the corresponding subsidisation level in Germany (10.31 Ecu).

With reference to subsidies in the shipbuilding industry the report talks of an "alarming deterioration in the order backlog" and a [illegible] prices for new projects".

The report categorically rejects subsidisation which enables shipyards not to include all operating costs in prices.

Due to the "cost coverage of publicly owned shipyards" calculations are often based on prices which are "below breakeven point".

The Commission has developed special subsidisation regulations for the fishing industry.

Operating subsidies which do not improve profitability or directly serve the purpose of marketing are inadmissible if not otherwise stated in the regulations.

Subsidies are allowed for investments for fleets, marketing, processing, advertising, sales promotion, research and quality control.

Referring to the dispute with the Ger-

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■ MICROCHIPS

Ideas are badly needed — exhibitors

Exhibitors at Telematica, the Stuttgart electronics fair, said off the record that new ideas were needed if the market was not to become one run by specialists for specialists.

This may seem odd, since someone seemed to be at every computer keyboard at the fair. Posts and Telegraph Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling even had a quick computer game of the German equivalent of noughts and crosses.

But it seems that the mere fascination exerted by the technology is not enough. This is why Btx, the German videotex system, is making slow progress and why sales of home computers are marking time.

The heady days have become history.

But, despite the pessimism, Telematica was *full of fun* for everyone who is keen on the new media and has no qualms about trying out and coming to terms with new techniques.

As one cynic at the trade fair put it, there was more than enough data processing and communications equipment on show, but communication seemed to be in short supply.

True, the man in the street is way out of his depth in the range of services offered by the new media. He is like a man wandering round a maze.

Is the layman going to respond other than with a puzzled frown to brochures headed: "How To Convert Your PC Into A Btx Terminal"?

Even insiders, while admitting they find it all fascinating, are worried computerspeak will merely create confusion among the general public.

The exhibition was a chance for commercial TV interests to clamour for greater publicity (and advertising revenue).

They are heavily overextended in initial outlay. Sat 1 has cost roughly DM250m over the past three years. RTL-plus has cost about DM150m and director Helmut Thoma is not expecting his channel to run at a profit for another six years or so.

The long, lean years are partly due to legislative parameters taking time. Cable-laying and satellite launching are also subject to delays.

Commercial broadcasters are not alone in banking on TV-Sat boosting turnover when it is finally in orbit toward the end of the year. So are aerial manufacturers.

Telematica visitors were able to admire the salad bowl, a dish antenna 55cm in diameter that will soon ensure satellite TV reception from gardens or rooftops.

A spokesman for one manufacturer was clearly worried by the prospect of any further setback to the Ariane launcher rocket programme.

His firm had invested so heavily in antennas. "If they fail to put TV-Sat into orbit," he mused, falling silent at an idea so appalling!

Yet even if the satellite is successfully put into orbit it is doubtful whether viewers will be prepared to pay DM3,000 for an antenna to ensure reception of the extra channels available.

After Telematica the fair-goer's inclination will probably be to wait and see. Cable TV and TV-Sat will soon be joined by terrestrial frequencies.

It remains to be seen which channels are allocated these frequencies in the Federal Republic, so it is hardly surprising that commercial operators are clamouring for clarification.

Another moot point is the extent to which existing contractual arrangements between groups of *Länder* in the north and south of the Federal Republic will affect the course of negotiations on an overall agreement.

All that private operators can hope for in the circumstances is a speed-up in the provision of cable TV infrastructure.

By 1988 Herr Schwarz-Schilling has promised to have 4.4 million households ready to plug in to cable TV. So far only 1.3 million German households enjoy the privilege.

Despite an undeniable increase in viewer interest private operators face the cold wind of criticism that they have yet to provide the "refreshingly different TV" they promised.

Herr Thoma of RTL-plus says films are films, whichever channel they are screened on. "Jaws will be jaws whether shown on semi-public or commercial TV."

Director-general Gerd Bacher of Austrian Radio and TV launched a broadside at commercial TV in Stuttgart, saying at the opening ceremony of Telematica that the so-called new media were the largest programme reprocessing facility in TV history.

Sat-1's answer will not be long in coming. The newspaper and magazine proprietors' channel plans to harness Boris Becker and *Bundesliga* soccer to boost audience ratings.

That would boost advertising revenue which, they argue, would enable them to improve programme quality.

Winfried Weithofer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 13 June 1986)

Lack of awareness 'hampering full exploitation of computers'

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The C '86 computer fair in Cologne featured an extensive selection of the wide range of hardware, software and electronics available.

There were no epoch-making innovations. Few industries are expanding at such a rate as computer electronics, but improvements at present are mainly in technological detail.

Faster, more intelligent and more user-friendly are the latest trends. The opportunities computers open up have been harnessed to only a limited extent.

"For professional users we have enormous ground to make up," said Helmut Schmalfuss of the Office Machinery Association at the inaugural press conference.

In the commercial sector computers had yet to be put to their best use because not enough people were sufficiently aware of what they could do.

Nearly all leading manufacturers had now decided to provide systems compatible with others. Even the portable computer designed for on-site use by civil engineers and tradesmen is now supplied with the attribute "fully compatible."

Tradesmen, representing a sector that has yet to benefit as much as it might from the present upswing, were out in strength at the Cologne computer fair.

Just over 300 manufacturers from 17 countries exhibited computers and programmes specially designed for use by painters, tilers, plumbers and the like.

Programmes on exhibit included bookkeeping for electricians, on-site calculation and even software custom-made for chimney-sweeps.

Tradesmen's guilds have come to realise they still have a lot to learn about computers. An advisory centre at Cologne featured software for a number of trades.

The guilds' association confidently expected over 10,000 trade enquiries. Advice was given independently of manufacturers, providing small firms with initial access to computerisation.

Manufacturers have set their sights on more than tradesmen. The micro market is still booming, with growth rates this year expected to be 20 per cent and more even though equipment is growing steadily less expensive.

Chess world championships were held at the Cologne fair, where 23 of the world's best computer programmers pitted their wits at the chessboard in a competition held under the patronage of Oberbürgermeister Norbert Burger of Cologne.

They used some of the world's largest computers, including the Cray Blitz, costing several million marks, from the United States, which can handle 6,000 users simultaneously and do 80,000 computations per second.

Yet micro computers costing less than DM500 were not also-rans in the fifth world computer chess championships.

They might not compute as fast as the king-sized mainframes but speed alone is no guarantee of success. The computer has yet to be built that is the master of every conceivable move on the chessboard.

Mephisto, a Cologne computer, was one of the competitors. It was world champion last year and the year before.

Eighteen entrants used computers based and abroad and had data hookups with personal computers in the exhibition hall where the championships were held.

Visitors could see for themselves on computer terminals the progress of championship games. The operator was needed only to push figures around the board; instructions were given by the computer.

Art without the Artist was the motto of another C '86 speciality, computer graphics. Computer art was produced on the basis of abstract drawings digitalised and computer-processed.

Ulrich J. Schröder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 12 June 1986)

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man federal and state authorities over regional promotion measures, Caspari gave the reassurance that no-one is questioning this policy.

What is more, the idea is not just to grant such support for German regions — for example, the border area (between the Federal Republic and East Germany), the Eifel or the Rhône — if they are disadvantaged in terms of a Community average.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 15 June 1986)

■ THE THEATRE

Murderers in pin stripes who shot dead Julius Caesar this morning

RHEINISCHE POST

"Et tu, Brute!" — Caesar's dying words — almost go unheard amid the panic of his assassins in Michael Bogdanov's version of Shakespeare's tragedy at the Schauspielhaus in Hamburg.

A man dies, shot or beaten to death. Is he perhaps Olof Palme, or John F. Kennedy, or Martin Luther King?

He is, of course, Julius Caesar, who is murdered in a bloodcurdling stage massacre, fighting for his life like an animal.

But in the mind's eye one has visions of latter-day political assassinations. Someone is murdered. There is no difference between him being killed on the steps of the Capitol in Ancient Rome or anywhere else on the street.

It doesn't even matter whether the murdered man was fair or unfair, good or bad. He is still a victim.

Michael Bogdanov, co-director of the National Theatre in London since 1980, stages Caesar as though it were a modern play.

The three hours of action are as thrilling as a political thriller and as upsetting as an unpleasant truth.

The tale from Ancient Rome is a present-day one: the age-old murderous tale of men, might, markets and monopolies.

It turns like a merry-go-round and those who fall off break their backs. The morals of the powers that be aren't worth a red cent. It's all window-dressing for the public.

What difference does the transition of power from one tyrant to the next, from Caesar via Brutus to Augustus, make? None. It's six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Bogdanov's interpretation hits a particularly sore point, today's widespread dissatisfaction with the state, and what we see of pre-Christian Rome is like a mirror image of our own day and age.

The first scene could be a scene outside the main station in Bonn any Friday afternoon. The people are perfectly ordinary folk, including a handful of MPs (in this case Roman senators) in grey double-breasted suits.

They are middle class people who have "made it" — nothing special. Brutus, played by Michael Degen, seems slightly more attractive than the others.

He is a good-looking man with soft brown eyes, but he too is a murderer. The only difference between him and the others is that he shuts his eyes when firing the shot that kills Caesar.

Cassius, played by Dietrich Mattausch, represents the intelligentsia. He is the egghead type who does the brain trust work for party-political machines.

Casca, played by Matthias Fuchs, is a cold-hearted, unpleasant character, whereas Mark Antony, played by Ulrich Tukur, is lanky, sporting and easy-going.

He is a big boy who bursts into tears at Caesar's corpse and shortly afterwards, one hand holding the microphone, the other in his trouser pocket, delivers one of the most superb obituaries in stage history:

"Friends, Romans, countrymen! I have come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." — But "Brutus is an honourable man."

There is nothing new about transposing Shakespearean heroes into the 20th century and showing them wearing pin-striped suits rather than togas.

But in Bogdanov's case it isn't just a gag; it makes disconcerting sense.

Are there heroes in history? Caesar, *played by Gerhard Olschowski, is nothing* but a philistine, a narrow-minded bourgeois along lines invented by Carl Sternheim, not by Shakespeare. Heroes are all criminals.

Shakespeare's all-male play ought to end with Ina Deter's pop song "Neue Männer braucht das Land" (New Men Are What the Country Needs), but it doesn't. It ends on a note of cynicism.

Paulus Manker appears as Octavius. He is the chief beneficiary and will later call himself Augustus and have himself crowned Caesar.

The original Caesar had first to pay with his life, but that was doubtless merely a welcome pretext for the men in their grey double-breasted suits to get rid of their rival.

The old, old tale of murder and mayhem never stops, as Octavius is cynical enough to admit. An important part is played by the stage setting. Christ Dyer designed a monstrous structure of imitation *marble pillars* and wire-reinforced glass, a gloomy style of architecture but doubtless one favoured in the corridors of power. The conspiracy against Caesar is forged in gangster fashion at the billiard table in the saloon bar.



Burying Caesar . . . Mark Antony (Ulrich Tukur) avoids the praise in Bogdanov's version. (Photo: Peter Peitsch)

Brutus, who has the media well under control, makes his major speech after Caesar's death in the light of TV monitors screening the speech live. It all looks disconcertingly familiar.

Only the names don't seem to fit. Elisabeth Plessen is responsible for ensuring that the Shakespearean dialogues don't seem out of place in this day and age.

She rewrote the classical German translation of Shakespeare by August Wilhelm Schlegel and did so effectively.

The text is largely rewritten and the result was given a resounding ovation.

Erika Brenken

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 10 June 1986)

Slightly out-of-joint version of As You Like it

Peter Zadek was always proud of his reputation as the entertainer among leading German stage directors. Bearing the hallmark of post-war British theatre, he played a leading role in developing the new German theatre in Bremen in the 1960s.

He went on to present an unusually wide-ranging view of Shakespeare with his unconventional Bochum productions of, say, *King Lear* and *Hamlet*.



Poetic action or vaudeville? . . . Zadek's version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. (Photo: Peter Peitsch)

Yet the more the now 60-year-old *enfant terrible* of the German stage devoted himself to middlebrow theatre and popular comedy, the blunter and more teased-out his stage work seemed to become.

The change was painfully apparent at this year's Ruhr Festival in Recklinghausen, where his latest attack on Shakespeare, his Hamburg version of *As You Like It*, was staged. Viewed from the angle of an escape into utopia, Shakespeare's strange and confusing stage fairy tale is little short of a latter-day play about dropouts. The lovers flee with their retinue from courtly etiquette, i.e. civilisation, to the idyll of the Ardennes woods, where the unjustly exiled Duke heads a gentle, altruistic regime. The knot of deception and self-deception is not severed until the final, wedding scene in which four (happy?) couples eventually find each other. The web of romantic, suprarealistic enchantment is broken too. Sad to say, Zadek only makes this point in the programme, although he undeniably does so beautifully and to the point.

For all the characters, he says, the dream of truth is but a dream of the unrealistic and unrealisable. It is a pity the distinction between arrogant *despotism* and endangered freedom in a bucolic landscape was not made *more patent* on the stage.

Instead, Zadek obscures the borderline between appearances and reality downgrading the poetic action to cheapskate vaudeville.

This begins with the entire cast swaying to and fro in beerhouse fashion to the accompaniment of a fairly mindless pop song, Tina York's "Wir lassen uns das Singen nicht verbieten."

Then comes a slimy and brutal bout of St Pauli-style fisticuffs, followed by an animal masquerade march-past and a final chorus of That's Entertainment, ending on a note of run-of-the-mill musical quality.

Is it entertainment? That would be the day! It is nothing more nor less than superficial pandering to the public's taste.

It culminates in Zadek's [illegible] of transposing the Du[illegible] Texas, with the theme song of the TV series braying from the loudspeaker.

The clash between the hostile brothers Oliver and [illegible] bears a striking resemblance to life at South Fork ranch and the way Texan oilmen settle their disputes in TV serials.

In a scene where a deer is gutted the actor could well be Dr Brinkmann, head surgeon at the Black Forest Clinic.

Modern trivial myths could undoubtedly be inserted into the plot. Why not? Shakespeare was not very particular in his choice of methods.

But Zadek usually them solely as ammunition for a string of gags, and the use of language in Elisabeth Plessen's new translation is, to put it mildly, negligently lax.

That is not even to mention the lack of psychological contour from which the characters suffer. Painter Johannes Grützke, a leading member of the Berlin Wild Ones, designed a succession of

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■ EDUCATION

Arts, the faculty that tripped and fell

DIE ZEIT

The author, Professor Peter Herde, teaches history at Würzburg University. He has taught at several US universities and twice been a member of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies.

The Bavarian Minister, Hans Maier, says that the arts in Germany compares with the best in the world in every respect.

The truth is that it does nothing of the sort. And it hasn't for a long time. Narrow-minded cultural policies have seen to that.

Since the heyday of university appointments in the 1970s there have been unprecedented cuts in university education in both CDU- and SPD-ruled *Länder*, in some cases casually, in others by means of spectacular government decisions.

Arts appointments are either scrapped or "converted," generally into science jobs, especially where scientific results are expected to trigger material prosperity.

Cuts in higher education are deemed essential to reduce teacher training capacity and carried out irrespective of the scientific requirements in individual *disciplines*.

An American university teacher has called the way in which cuts are carried out in Germany a "perversion of the concept of science."

Most German university teachers are fighting for the survival of their disciplines and keen to prevent higher education from being bled to death.

A minority supports the cuts, relying on being left with enough lectures, as the number of students declines, to maintain their academic self-esteem.

But comparison readily shows such hopes to be mistaken. At my university, Würzburg, with about 17,000 students eight professors taught 800 history students last semester.

Even more students will soon be "dealt with" by only seven professors; in art history 600 students already have to make do with two professors.

At Princeton in contrast 306 history students (250 undergraduates and 56 graduate students) were taught by 47 professors last semester.

Princeton has a student population of just over 6,000. By US standards Würzburg would not be allowed to award full degrees because its history courses are inadequate. It would certainly not be allowed the privilege of graduate students.

The same fate would befall history as taught at other German universities where history departments have fewer than 20 professors. They include Bonn, Düsseldorf, Erlangen, Frankfurt, Giessen, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Kiel, Konstanz, Mainz and Saarbrücken, to mention only longstanding, "established" universities.

The number of history students at the average German university (about 1,000) is matched in America only by leading state universities with 50 to 70 professors, such as Berkeley and Los Angeles in California, Madison, Wisconsin, Rutgers and so on.

These state universities have minor campuses where a further 40 professors teach history. States such as California, New York, New Jersey and Wisconsin finance several hundred chairs of history each, or well more than leading *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany.

At leading private universities such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton or Stanford between 40 and 70 professors teach history in departments that usually have fewer than 500 students.

There is also a dense network of smaller universities and colleges of which 399 are granted academic status by US historians in the 1984/85 Guide to Departments of History.

A comparison with German universities and colleges can be misleading, but in relation to its population the United States has a much denser network of universities and colleges roughly equal in standards.

In Germany US standards more or less prevail only at the Free University in Berlin, where roughly 40 professors teach history, not including art history, prehistory, early history and didactics.

Berlin can be compared with the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, where 42 professors teach history.

The Free University is the exception in the Federal Republic. Münster with nearly 30 and Hamburg and Munich with a little over 20 history professors have fewer staff than the 30 to 40 professors at the average US university.

Bielefeld, Bochum, Cologne, Freiburg, Marburg and Tübingen are more typical of German universities felt to be well endowed with history dons. They have between 15 and 20 professors of history.

That puts them on a par with small US colleges that just qualify to teach graduate students and award PhDs.

Other German universities, including newcomers founded over the past 10 to 20 years, all have fewer members of staff at their history departments.

German universities do not just compare badly with US universities, as a brief glance at other countries shows.

In England Oxford and Cambridge rank with the best US universities in their number of history chairs, while other British universities also rank well above the German average.

A medium-sized university such as Warwick has 30 history dons, which would make its history department the second-largest in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The situation is similar in France. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem also has 30 history dons, while even a poor developing country like the Philippines employs 25 historians at its state university in Quezon City.

Twenty of the 25 hold appointments for life. Quezon City's history department would be the third-largest in Germany.

Everyone knows that intensive care improves standards of teaching and research. At a large US university such as Berkeley with over 30,000 students the number of students per seminar is limited to 20 and the actual number is usually much lower.

Graduate seminars are limited to about 10 students but in practice are more likely to be attended by five.

In Germany I have hardly ever had a seminar with fewer than 20 students; on average the figure is roughly twice this number, with attendance at graduate seminars being not much lower.

Another striking point is that in the United States, where public opinion and the media tend to be introverted and to show scant interest in foreign affairs, universities offer a much wider range of courses on the history of nearly all parts of the world.

The history of North America and Europe is covered by many courses at undergraduate and graduate level. So is Far Eastern, South-East Asian, South Asia, Middle Eastern, African and Latin American history.

Courses German universities have to offer are markedly provincial in comparison, and the 1970s "reform" failed to change this state of affairs.

To learn anything about the history of South Asia you must go to Heidelberg, while Passau specialises in South-East Asia, Bayreuth in Africa and Latin America in Cologne (soon to be joined by Eichstätt).

Essential infrastructure is what is lacking, and German historians lack international flair, as is sadly reflected in their academic output.

American universities don't just produce for the market. Nearly all US history departments have a specialist in Byzantine history and many have specialists in even more unusual subjects, such as Asian pre- and early history.

Good American universities are not motivated by materialism, as is often alleged in Germany. They are motivated solely by the pursuit of knowledge.

In the United States, as in Germany, the wide range of subjects covered encourages specialisation. Keeping within narrow limits is more convenient, and Germany can definitely claim to have kept pace with America in this respect.

At a well-known German university an applicant for a chair of history has been known to be turned down because, in addition to specialising in the 11th century, he has also published the occasional article about the 15th century.

This is termed impermissible fluctuation in the direction of research. Only leading modern historians teach and research both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Historians who, in a flight of nostalgia, work in "middle and modern history" (the old designation that chairs often retain) comes under pressure to justify such generalisation.

German history professors have long ceased to cover long periods.

In the United States only the best is good enough — and is remunerated accordingly, certainly at leading US universities.

University teachers who work hard and do good work are allocated research grants and are paid higher salaries accordingly.

At Harvard the earnings differential among full professors can be as much as 4:1. Far from unusual in America, this ratio would be out of the question in Germany.

Increments in Germany have never been pegged to achievement to more than a strictly limited extent.

In the days of university expansion second-rate teachers in popular subjects were able to negotiate top salaries, whereas internationally renowned Egyptologists, Byzantinists, Arabists and Mediaeval Latinists seldom had an opportunity to bargain.

There was seldom more than one job on offer at any time and they had to make do with minimum salaries.

In one way or another students are polled on their teachers' performance at

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■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Close all nuclear plants, demands declaration

All nuclear plants in both East and West should be shut down, says a declaration drawn up at the end of an environment conference in Würzburg.

Thirty thousand delegates spent the three days debating at seven different forums subdivided into 50 working parties. The seven-page Würzburg Declaration summarises their findings.

Its purpose, the organisers said, was to spell out what environmental protectionists think and to specify demands to be levelled at politicians.

The declaration was also a compromise aimed at enabling the various organisations represented to join forces, even though some, such as the BBU, or Federal Association of Civic Initiatives, felt not enough attention was paid to their views.

It calls for an immediate end to construction work on the site of the proposed nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Wackersdorf, Bavaria, and at the fast breeder power reactor at Kalkar on the Lower Rhine, not far from the Dutch border.

A split in the ranks of the ecological movement on atomic energy seemed a distinct possibility before the Würzburg conference, but in the aftermath of Chernobyl the issue proved far less explosive for the conference and for unity among environmentalists than for politicians.

In view of the Soviet reactor catastrophe a special forum on The Lessons of Chernobyl was arranged at the last minute.

Leading atomic energy experts and spokesmen for the power utilities were invited to attend and represent the pro-nuclear point of view but they all declined.

In the quest for common viewpoints, especially against the background of a virtually boundless number of forums, working parties and conference gatherings, a number of details and controversies went by the board.

"That wasn't anywhere near specific enough for me," one member of the Concepts of New Economics working party complained. "We could have got down to much greater detail."

New economics was undeniably one of the more cumbersome topics dealt with in Würzburg. Other working parties made more headway, with one entitled Life as the Measure of *All Things* proving particularly popular.

Other working parties full to overflowing were Is Sport Fair On Nature? and the Munich Noah's Ark, chaired by veteran zoologist Professor Bernhard Grzimek, former director of Frankfurt Zoo.

A working party on Environmental Behaviour for the Consumer was also hopelessly overcrowded.

Yet the organisers' impression that there had been surprisingly little controversy was by and large correct. The general tenor was that a move had been made in the direction of rapprochement.

Does this herald a qualitative change in the ecological movement?

The other demands tabled in the Würzburg Declaration will already be familiar in broad outline, having been made on earlier occasions in a similar manner.

They deal with nature conservation, agriculture, industry and the energy sector.

In connection with atmospheric and water pollution the declaration called for stricter regulations on radioactivity.

A levy on essential chemicals was envisaged to cover the cost of decontaminating waste dumps where toxic waste had been tipped in the past.

Ecological modes of transport were to be encouraged and promoted more effectively, and keen attention was paid to matters of education, research and technology.

The conference called for an international moratorium on genetic engineering, for the development of an ecological systems research programme and for the acknowledgement of environmental protection as a basic right.

The average age of participants was between 15 and 35. Many young people used the special cut-price "eco-ticket" issued by Würzburg corporation transport department.

They certainly needed transport, either public or private, with events being held all over the city, many in church or municipal facilities.

Institutions of which the Bavarian government was in charge, such as the Marienberg Fortress, were not available. Marienberg is run by the Bavarian castles and lakes department.

The CSU, the Bavarian wing of Chancellor Kohl's CDU and the party of Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, had strongly criticised the conference in advance.

It was said to be a publicity venture for the Social Democrats and Greens, which was why CDU and CSU speakers mostly preferred not to take part.

The main handicap the conference faced was not political hostility; it was the cold and rain. Yet it was amazing how much of the accompanying arts activities went ahead, admittedly on a greatly reduced scale, despite the bad weather, especially as most arrangements were made by voluntary workers.

Hubert Bätz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 June 1986)

Continued from page 11

virtually all US universities. But at good universities the findings are viewed very critically. In many cases students are known to give the highest ratings to the teachers who are least demanding and give their students the highest grades.

Academic and scientific promotion are decentralised in the United States and handled by a wide range of foundations whose impartial boards of governors guarantee a system of checks and balances and make it harder for expertise to corner the market in any way.

The experts who are called on to give opinions change annually, ensuring that key positions in the academic world are not hogged by individuals who have often not carried out research of their own for decades.

Selection of experts is not governed by professional organisations and mistaken judgements are more readily offset.

Comparison will thus allow of no better assessment than that history, as studied and taught at German universities has long lost touch with the world's best in both breadth and universality and has done so as a result of narrow-minded cultural policies.

To bridge the gap the number of appointments would have to be at least trebled so as to give outstanding young historians a chance of making the grade.

Peter Herde

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 13 June 1986)

Aircraft monitor power station emission

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Berlin's Free University uses two motorised gliders and a twin-engined propeller aircraft to measure atmospheric pollution from power stations in various parts of Germany.

The project is headed by Professor Heinz Fortak of the meteorology section at the department of geophysical sciences, who has been involved since it began in 1980.

The aircraft measure the concentration and distribution of toxins such as sulphur dioxide and ozone. Readings are now to be extended to include dust.

Last year, Professor Fortak and his small staff covered the five power stations in the Saarbrücken area for the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology. Next year a start will probably be made in West Berlin.

Professor Fortak says the air in the Saar is appalling.

The team has already found that desulphurised smoke gas is too cold to rise high enough into the atmosphere.

The result is an increase is the toxic concentration at ground level. Power station chimneys are also sooted up by condensation, Professor Fortak says.

The alternative is to pump desulphurised smoke gas into the *atmosphere* via power station cooling towers, a method now used at Völklingen power station near Saarbrücken.

This technique is likely to be used all over Germany. "We demonstrated last year," Professor Fortak says, "that this really is a solution worth recommending."

He is optimistic about the air in general: "Desulphurising smoke gas is a tremendous improvement," he says. "It can't be overrated."

About half the 50 major power stations in the country that are due to be desulphurised by 1987 are already fitted out with equipment.

Professor Fortak says: "When you look down at power stations from the air, you can see that roughly half of them already have environmental protection facilities."

Although pollution is declining in the Federal Republic, it is increasing in the East Bloc and in Western Europe.

More power stations are under construction but filtration technology has failed to keep pace with new projects, he says.

Berlin will soon benefit directly from Professor Fortak's experience: a test of metropolitan atmospheric quality commissioned by the Senator of Science and Research will probably begin in West Berlin next year.

As the university is not allowed to use its own planes in Berlin, where Allied rights are still in force, there are plans to hire aircraft from an Allied airline.

The Berlin project will look into:

- transnational movements of atmospheric pollution,
- arrangements for licensing procedures in accordance with the latest atmospheric pollution regulations
- and smog alarm precautions.

It is a five-year project.

Angelika Kleeblatt

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 10 June 1986)

■ MEDICINE

The Unreachables: future of isolation still awaits autistic children

Autism, a pathological form of egocentrism and self-absorption, was first recognised as a disorder in its own right in 1943.

Anyone who encounters an autistic person, particularly if that person is an adult, will simply regard him or her as an egocentric.

In the case of a child most people will feel that the child is ill-mannered. This response often makes the situation worse.

For although autistic persons seem inconsiderate and insensitive they are frequently helpless and in need of protection.

An estimated 8,000 children and adolescents in the Federal Republic of Germany suffer from this strange illness.

Sufferers often appear to be cut off *from the* rest of the world, interested only *in objects* and not people or actions.

It often takes many years before the parents of autistic children find expert help.

Aid centre

In an effort to improve this situation parents of autistic children in the Cologne and Bonn area are striving to set up a special clinic for the coordination of advisory and therapeutic services for autistic people.

Autistic children often behave outrageously. On a tram trip, for example, a child might suddenly ask a strange women if she wears a brassiere.

Another might start hammering the till during the wait at a supermarket checkout. The cashier and other customers only see a badly behaved child which needs more discipline.

Parents suffer embarrassment. The wear on their nerves is enormous.

Some think up ideas to help them: special cardboard signs (e.g. "The child in front of you is handicapped"), which they show as soon as their child starts behaving abnormally.

One big problem is the fact that autistic children don't look any different to *their* peers.

Blind, deaf or in any other way handicapped children arouse immediate compassion. Not autistic children.

Apart from this special problem, anyone who *tries* to "get through" to these children is soon forced to abandon such efforts, since contact of any kind triggers a panic-stricken fear.

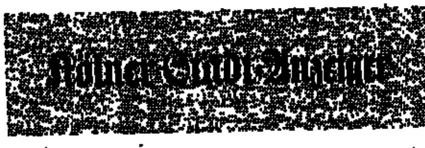
Autistic children perceive bodily contact, cuddling or teasing, all things which mongoloid children, for example, long for and enjoy, as if they have been physically hit.

Some mothers are first able to hold their child in their arms without being rejected by the child after three years of special therapy.

As one father put it, infants "sit on your lap like a sack of potatoes or push you away".

Even adolescents perceive their environment as a threat.

One fifteen-year-old boy, for example, who attended a school for the physically handicapped, felt as if he had



been "cut by knives" when his classmates threw paper pellets at him.

Although autistic persons can see, hear, feel and taste, i.e. their sensation is normal, they find it difficult to assimilate these impressions.

This is why they withdraw from the chaos of incomprehensible external stimuli into their own private world.

"This group of people has a particularly hard time," says Dr Ulrike Puyn, senior physician at the Cologne Children's Clinic.

Whereas the mentally handicapped show a "completely normal response to emotions", the autistically handicapped seem emotionally withdrawn and "no-one really know what stimulates them within".

This congenital illness, which experts define as a "fundamental disorder in the assimilation of sensory perceptions", is still very much a medical "mystery".

Although cerebral malfunction does occur in some cases there are generally no signs of organic damage.

Some autistic children are mentally handicapped.

Many, however, are quite normal or even gifted.

Some young people suffering from autism study music or are training to become electricians.

Nevertheless, "they retain their deviant social behaviour and remain unusual and isolated individuals," says Helen Blohm, a member of the Hamburg-based national coordination group of the "Help for the Autistic Child" parents' associations.

Helen Blohm has a 22 year-old autistic daughter herself.

Dr Puyn is convinced that an early diagnosis and corresponding training could help prevent the more serious behavioural disturbances.

As a rule, however, most parents are often left alone in their efforts to find out what is wrong with their children.

Helga Kaufhold, a chemistry and biology teacher in Cologne, is a typical case.

Her eight-year-old son Jan is an autistic child.

He was the Kaufholds' second "planned child" and was a "sweet little lad" as well as "inconspicuous" when he was a baby.

In fact, he was so quiet that his mother began to get worried.

"I don't know exactly what it was," Helga Kaufhold recalls, "but something wasn't right."

She missed the usual smile on a baby's face when its mother arrives or the reaching out of the baby's hands.

During a medical check-up she told the children's specialist that she felt that "Jan doesn't react in the right way".

However, Jan passed all the normal tests: no delayed reaction when crawling, sitting or walking.

"Perhaps he can't hear properly," said his mother.

The doctor rang a bell behind his ear and Jan responded quite normally by turning round.

"The doctor can't find anything wrong with him," Helga Kaufhold told her worried husband that evening, "he reckons that Jan is probably a late starter."

The soothing effect of this diagnosis didn't last long.

Instead of trying to find out more about his environment Jan just sat on the floor and rocked himself back and forth, completely absorbed in his own world.

By this time the Kaufholds had moved, and when the new paediatrician came to see their older son Lutz about his measles Jan's mother asked him to take a look at Jan.

In the doctor's opinion Jan seemed to be suffering from some form of "disrupted communication".

This was when the odyssey through the medical and other therapeutic insitutions began: hearing tests, reflex checks, a computer audiogram, the fitting of two hearing aids, and psychoanalytical sessions.

Jan's strange behaviour, however, didn't change.

His mother took a look around in a school for the deaf and partly deaf and came to the conclusion: "That's not the answer. The children there are incredibly outgoing, their eyes react to everything."

Jan, on the other hand, didn't observe or imitate anything, and seemed completely preoccupied with himself.

The recurrence of apparently meaningless repetitive actions was particularly alarming.

Jan's mother recalled having read an article somewhere about autistic children and their leaning towards "sterotype" action patterns.

Jan, for example, used to sit for hours and play with jigsaw puzzles, but he was only interested in banging the pieces into place and not in the jigsaw picture itself.

Once again she visited a doctor in an early detection centre and asked him: "Could my child be suffering from autism?"

Finally, the Kaufholds travelled to Munich to the Child Centre run by paediatric expert Professor Hellbrügge.

Medical examinations and video recordings of Jan and his parents confirmed his mother's assumption.

Frau Kaufhold immediately took off her son's hearing aids and tried to find therapeutic help.

By this time Jan was three years old.

Today, Jan attends a school for the mentally handicapped.

Although Jan is not easy to live with, his parents and his brother Lutz have learnt how to deal with his behaviour, how to reduce his fear of change, and how to train Jan to cope with everyday situations (in line with the advice given by psychologists).

He can now bear having a flannel on his face, can enter a room he is not familiar with, and has even managed to stroke a cat.

His mother trained this by repeatedly putting Jan's hand on a hairbrush.

Helga Kaufhold, who still goes to work despite the demands made on her by Jan, is now lady chairman of the Cologne-Bonn regional group of the Parents' Association for the Autistic Child.

Time consuming

Her commitments for this group are time-consuming and strenuous, but, as she points out, she herself would have liked to have had "somebody to talk to" about her problems with Jan.

"The most practical hints always come from the parents affected," she emphasises.

These parents in the Cologne-Bonn area would like to see an advisory centre or clinic set up, where families could learn to cope with their situation together on a "step by step" basis.

For experts agree that autism is a lifelong problem.

Dr Ulrike Puyn is convinced, however, that help can be provided via a "loving and caring upbringing".

As soon as Jan begins drifting into his stereotype behavioural patterns his mother tried to distract his attention.

This approach to the problem is easy enough inside a terraced house, but every time they go to the shops or pay friends a visit special patience is needed.

"Fortunately," say Jan's parents, "we've got very understanding freinds."

They are willing to lock up their bathrooms when the Kaufholds come.

Jan has a fixation for tiles.

"Somehow he always finds one, whether in the hall or underneath a pot."

All Jan then wants to do is to smash the tiles to pieces and then put the pieces together like a jigsaw puzzle.

In the opinion of psychologists this reflects a desire to rearrange, and thus come to terms with, the outside world, which is perceived as a threat.

Annelie Stankau

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 June 1986)

As You Like It

Continued from page 10

gaily-coloured curtains as a setting, painting each as imaginatively as if both Miro and Chagall had been at work.

The result was a playful, if not overly original set into which scenes of courtship and dancing fit well.

In keeping with Grützke's ideology of perspective, the portrait of the tyrannical Duke hangs off-balance: the world is out of joint.

So is Zadek's theatrical view of the world, and the actors suffer most. Apart from Ulrich Tukur, a sprightly, virtuoso Orlando, and Hermann Lause, an ironically broken, melancholic Jacques, they are either coarse or all airs and graces.

That includes the charming Eva Mattes as a lovelorn Rosalinde, the fragile Ilse Ritter as an affected Celia and Heinz Schubert as a zany take-off of a figure of hatred.

Comedy as vaudeville would have been a tragedy to be forgotten had it not been directed by one of the leading directors of his generation.

For over four hours Zadek disregards Shakespeare's tenet that brevity is the soul of wit. They are hours that weigh heavily on his audience.

Hans Jansen

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 14 June 1986)

■ FRONTIERS

The child-snatching foreign fathers who leave mother not holding the baby

Every year about 20,000 marriages take place between Germans and foreigners. Every year, about 200 children born from such marriages are abducted by the father and taken to a foreign country. These are only the known cases. The real figure may be much higher...

By one estimate, the rate of abductions is increasing about 10 per cent a year.

Some years ago, a Cologne woman founded an organisation to help mothers who have lost their children in this way.

The typical case is where a German woman marries a man from the Middle East or Africa. The marriage breaks up and custody of the child or children is awarded to the mother.

The husband then snatches the children and returns home to a country where, in many cases, no legal channels exist to get them back.

The Cologne founder of Kinderschutz International is an exception. In 1964 she married a Tunisian. They had



two sons. The husband returned to Tunisia, taking the boys with him.

The mother began a legal battle which last for three and a half years and, in 1977, an appeal court in Tunis ruled in her favour.

But her the win was costly both in terms of money, time and stress. She had to travel to Tunisia 11 times, she had to pay out 100,000 marks and she became mentally exhausted.

The great advantage she had, which makes her success atypical, is that she speaks perfect French and Arabic and knows the country she was dealing with and something of the mentality of its people.

Most others are not so fortunate. Another woman, called Helga for the purposes of the story, has not seen her two children for six years. The estranged father took them back to Iran. Islamic law recognises neither the German custody award nor the separation order.

Helga sometimes is able to speak to her children by telephone, but they speak only a little German.

There is little that can be done in such cases. There is no internationally agreed formula for deciding tug-of-war battles over children.

A Berlin lawyer, Berndt Bendref, even says it is not always a good idea to prosecute because it deters the husband from ever coming back and letting the mother see her children again.

Berlin has many more abductions than anywhere else. One estimate is between 2,000 and 3,000 since 1975. From Berlin, the escape route is much easier than from other parts of West Germany. The border with East Germany is not controlled by the West, so the absconding father can easily make his way to East Berlin's airport.

Even when the alarm goes up immediately, communication between police in West Berlin and East Berlin is ponderous and can take days.

The case of Helga was such a Berlin case. In the middle of the 1970s, when she was a student in East Berlin, she met an Iranian construction engineer based in Brunswick, in West Germany. He made business trips to the East and they started to meet more often.

Two children were born. They got married. After three and a half years, she received permission to travel to the West. They lived in Brunswick. Then the marriage began to disintegrate. She says he demanded subjugation and gratitude.

What had begun as a fairy tale ended in drama. Helga moved back to Berlin where a court granted her interim custody of the children. The father was allowed to see them once a month for three hours at a neutral venue.

One day he and the children did not come back from their meeting. He had left his passport with her, but unbeknown to her, had a duplicate issued by the Iranian embassy.

Helga went to the police, the courts, the Foreign Office and the German embassy in Teheran. Interpol were brought in. She wanted to go to Iran herself, but was advised against it on the grounds that once there, it might not be possible for her to return to Germany because of the peculiarities of Islamic law on the subject.

Her only hope is that she will one day see the children again when they are older: "They will want to know who their mother is."

Another case concerns a doctor's assistant who was awarded custody of her daughter and son when she was separated from her Jordanian husband.

The children were kidnapped and taken back to Amman in September 1983. She has not seen them since.

Last Christmas she received a photograph of them through her sister in law in Amman. A Jordanian friend told her the children would like to be back with their mother.

One woman who has resigned herself to the fate of her children is a 27-year-old whose husband, a Nigerian, tore her two-and-a-half year old son out of her hand on the street and took him back to Lagos.

Three years later, she went to Nigeria and saw him. He was living in his father's tribe and spoke the language of the tribe.

One woman who did manage to get her children back is a nursing sister who fell in love with an Egyptian during a holiday in Alexandria. She married him and a daughter was born.

But the husband was unable to se[ttle] down in Berlin. He built up debts, wh[ich] his wife had to make good.

In 1984, the marriage came to an e[nd] and the daughter was awarded to t[he] mother. Last year, the father abduct[ed] the child.

After futile efforts by the authorities the mother herself went to Egypt, fou[nd] the child and persuaded the father t[o] give her up.

But she had barely got back to Berl[in] when the former husband turned u[p]. Out of fear that he would take the chi[ld] again, she accepted him back.

Liselotte Müller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 June 1986)

More help for battered wives is urged

More refuges and emergency centres *for maltreated women are needed*, says a report by the legal committee of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Schoolchildren should be better informed about help available in cases of sexual offences.

Dutch figures suggested that about 5 per cent of girls and 1 per cent of boys were at some stage sexually abused by parents, other relations or acquaintances.

The report regretted that France and Denmark were the only Community countries to class rape within marriage as a punishable offence.

Community statistics revealed that every 10th women was subject to sexual harrassment at work.

The report criticised the international trade in women for prostitution. Women from South East Asia, Africa and Latin America were made impossible promises about life in European countries. Their treatment breached human rights standards and contradicted the right to sexual self determination.

A Dutch socialist MP, Hedy d'Ancona, said in the European Parliament that violent acts against women should not be looked upon as "chance breakdowns" of human relationships. They should be regarded as having psychological, sociological and social causes.

She said women sexual victims should be accompanied by someone they have confidence in when they are taken for medical examination. Police interviews in sexual matters should be carried out by women officers. One reason was that male officers often have photos of naked women in their offices.

Police must be schooled to handle problems with women who have been raped or otherwise sexually molested. They must be able to handle particularly disadvantaged groups who for reasons of culture or religion were especially helpless — for example islamic women. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 12 June 1986)

Theologians hi[t] out at ban on gay parsons

Theologians from three countr[ies] have challenged a Protes[tant] church ruling that homosexuals are [not] to be ministers.

A year and a half ago, the Evange[li]cal-Lutheran church in Hanover [dismissed] one minister who was living in a ho[mo]sexual relationship and suspended [an]other.

The first has been unemployed [ever] since and the second faces dism[issal] when his hearing is held.

Theologians from West Germa[ny], Austria and Switzerland met in Ha[n]over to discuss the issue. The Hanove[r] diocese was not represented.

Delegates heard that the church cas[e] was based on the belief that marriag[e] between a man and a woman was "t[he] only recognised form of perfect hum[an] communion."

Düsseldorf theologian Hans-Geor[g] Wiedemann told the meeting that such [a] belief was not supported by the bibl[e]. The tradition had been carried on [by] the church although its origins were [in] Greek philosophy, in which it was be[]lieved that the body was the enemy o[f] the soul.

Professor Kurt Lüthi, of Vienna Uni[]versity's theology college, said homo[]sexuality was "a variation of creation."

Professor Rainer Albertz, of Siegen, said that despite the fact that the Old Testament did not define marriage as a norm established by god, the great mass of conservative bourgeoisie was shocked to the core when an unmarried minister had a friend of the same sex.

Swiss theologian Else Kähler [] that unmarried minister[s] [] especial[]ly discriminated against, especi[ally] women. They had to live along lines [dic]tated by male attitudes.

The Bavarian Evangelical-Lutheran church had taken on a homosexual as a parish priest with the approval of the local parish council, delegates heard.

The opinion was that, long term, the Hanover diocese would not persist in its view.

The meeting was also told about the Evangelical uniate church in Berlin where several homosexual parish priests were working without any great discrimination. In contrast, the Hanover church demanded that homosexuals stay celibate and deny their homosexuality if they wanted to work as ministers.

The minister suspended by the church, Hans-Jürgen Meyer, said at the end of the meeting that fear must be overcome. He said: "Homosexuality belongs to humanity. Why should it be repressed?"

Eckart Spoo

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 June 1986)

■ SOCIETY

Concern about children of the unemployed

Frankfurter Rundschau

There is increasing concern about children whose parents are unemployed long term.

Experts agree that prolonged unemployment is damaging both for the unemployed persons themselves and their children.

At the end of 1984 almost seven per cent of all children in the Federal Repubic of Germany had a parent who was unemployed, i.e. 1,296,000 children.

One girl with out-of-work parents said: "What is there to save if you haven't got enough money? There's not even enough money for the whole month ... and you've got to eat.

"You're happy if there's any there at all. We save on clothes etc. I can't afford new clothes all the time like some of my classmates.

"I haven't had any pocket money for a long time ...

"I can't stand it at home when my parents are always arguing ..."

The research project is headed by Professor Karl G. Zenke of the Reutlingen College of Education.

The interim observations are gloomy.

With the help of questionnaires and interviews the project researchers took a closer look at the experiences gathered by the social service sections of the independent welfare organisations in Baden-Württemberg on the effects of unemployment on the children of the persons affected.

Research efforts concentrated on the sub-universe of the long-term unemployed, who are particularly hard hit by unemployment.

Many members of this group of unemployed persons have particularly poor chances of finding a job because of their lack of professional qualification.

In many cases, they are deep in debt and have an above-average number of children.

Many of the unemployed persons in this group bring up their children on their own.

Those women and men who had been unemployed for over a year had on average DM750 less at their disposal than during the period before their unemployment.

One in six of the households under review was obliged to turn to social security assistance because of unemployment.

In the case of married couples with children this figure was one in two households.

Even the slightest loss of income in this group leads to a drastic change in their situation, since any savings have long since been depleted.

It is the children who suffer most from this situation.

The first symptom of strain is the poor performance of children at school.

Many of these children are then singled out to be sent to a school for the educationaly handicapped.

More often than not they fail to obtain their secondary school-leaving certificate.

Without this, youngsters are themselves doomed to a longer period of unemployment, thus experiencing the same social plight as their parents.

The much-feared social isolation in the families affected is reflected in different ways.

The children often feel ashamed of being poor and no longer "belonging" to society.

Their unemployed father is regarded as a "failure", the children often start "loafing about", feeling despondent and becoming aggressive.

They start stealing things at home and in shops or wasting their time hanging around in amusement arcades.

Even 14-year-olds find themselves deep in debt.

Many of them start working "on the side" and playing truant.

The attitude which prevails is that work doesn't pay off any more.

There's a deterioration in the relationship to the unemployed father.

The fathers beat their children more than they used to.

Welfare association workers first discover the real extent of this family catastrophe when they talk to the children.

The parents tend to play down the family problems caused by unemployment.

The German Society for the Protection of Children has also recorded a growing number of acts of violence in families affected by longer-term unemployment.

The situation for the children is made even worse by the fact that they cannot afford to participate in activities which are important for children at a certain age.

Parents break off their contacts to nurseries, school or other educational training establishments.

The children are left to cope on their own with the problems they experience outside of the family.

Hanne Schreiner

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 May 1986)

Migrants 'cling to the cities' despite the problems

Sixty per cent of the 4.5 million foreigners in West Germany live in cities of more than 100,000 people. Twenty eight per cent live in the 12 cities with more than 500,000 people.

Foreigners comprise 7 per cent of the West German population. But their urban concentration is shown by these figures: they form 23.8 per cent of the Frankfurt population; 20.4 per cent of Offenbach's; and 17.6 of Stuttgart's.

These are some of the findings by Klaus Kaiser, head of the urban research department of the federal statistics office.

He points out that only a third of the total population of West Germany lives in cities of more than 100,000.

The first migrant workers began arriving between 25 and 30 years ago. The cities, as has been traditional, were the magnet for the job seekers.

But once having got into the cities, the foreigner started to face serious problems: lack of accommodation, high rents, unattractive residential areas near arterial roads and with minimal infrastructure and the like.

The cities also became a more hostile environment for children.

Kaiser's statistical analysis shows that despite all, foreigners prefer the big city: 28 per cent live in the cities with more than 500,000 people. About 17 per cent of West German citizens live in these 12 big cities.

West Berlin has more foreigners than anywhere else, 240,000. Munich has 210,000 and Hamburg almost 170,000.

Frankfurt has 145,000, Cologne 139,000 and Stuttgart 100,000.

By percentage, Frankfurt leads with 23.8, followed by: Offenbach (20.4); Stuttgart (17.6); Munich (16.3); Düsseldorf (14.9); Cologne (14.8); Berlin (13); and Hamburg (10.5).

In this context Kaiser points out that the nationality structure varies substantially in different cities.

"Economic factors and the historical development of immigration have been of decisive importance," he says.

Kaiser's analysis discovered that "Italians, Yugoslavs and Turks reflect the three major phases of immigration in the Federal Republic of Germany".

The first phase could be called the "Italian" one, most of the migrant Italian workers settling during the 50s and 60s in the south of Germany.

The Yugoslavs played a major part during the second immigration phase before and after the 1966/67 recession.

This group of foreigners is the most evenly spread throughout all big cities.

The Turks played a major role just before and after the official recruitment ban for migrant workers in 1973.

Most Turkish workers and their families live the north of Germany, mainly in Berlin, the nothern part of the Ruhr area and Cologne.

According to Kaiser's report between 17 and 18 per cent of the foreigners in Stuttgart are Turks.

The 28 per cent share of Yugoslavs in this city is the highest for this nationality group in any one city.

Stuttgart also has the highest percentage share of Italians (16.5 per cent).

Whereas there was previously a high percentage share of single foreign males *among the foreign population*, there has over the years been a shift towards more families with children.

This development has led to particular problems for town planning experts in their efforts to enable a peaceful coexistence between German and foreign families.

Thomas Borgmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 May 1986)

More grannies and more great grannies

People are living longer. As a result, the number of four-generation families is increasing.

The results of a study published in an article by Professor Dr Ursula Lehr in the magazine *Aktiver Lebensabend* show that there are 1.865 million people over 80 in West Germany and 146,000 over 90 (40,900 men and 115,000 women).

Many grandparents, most of them grandmothers, have to look after their own aged parents.

The study looked at 100 daughters between the ages of 55 and 70, 45 of them grandmothers, with one parent to look after.

Forty six of them looked after their parent (father, but mainly mother, and often mother-in-law) at home.

Twenty seven have a parent in an old people's home; and 27 with parents running their own households not far away.

Spinsters, widows and divorcees more frequently look after a parent at home than married daughters.

Another extremely interesting finding is that a greater number of the 51 per cent of daughters with no brother or sister look after a parent at home than those who are the oldest daughters with other brothers and sisters.

A more comprehensive survey of old people's homes would be needed to show whether it is easier for a family to decide to send its parents to a home if more brothers and sisters assume responsibility for that decision.

It is possible that very old parents tend to opt to move into a home more readily if they have more than one child.

The study reveals that living conditions (too many stairs etc) are not a major factor, although too many flights of stairs sometimes is.

Daughters find looking after their parents a particular strain if their parents cannot leave the house on their own. As long as their parents can still walk around outside, go for walks or visit friends and neighbours they are felt by their daughters to bemore content.

Parents who are tied to the house all day, however, often tend to grumble, are unhappy and criticise their daughters more often.

The relationship between the surveyed daughters and their aged parents was analysed according to both quantitative and qualitative aspects.

Sixty-two per cent of the daughters had seen their mother on the day on which the survey was conducted, 23 per cent that week, twelve per cent during the last month, and only three per cent more than a month previously.

These findings disprove the widespread claim that old people are "pushed aside" and neglected by their children.

As regards the more qualitative side of the relationship many daughters referred to the mutual help at home and in financial terms.

The aspect of "emotional support" was also mentioned, although the overwhelming majority (85 per cent) of the 55 to 70 year-old daughters regarded themselves as the "givers" rather than the "takers" of the relation-ship.

Those daughters who also had commitments outside of the home (44 per cent of the women surveyed still went to work, either on a part-time or honorary basis) found it easier to cope with the responsiblity of a parent at home than those daughters who had no such commitments.

These findings show that, on the one hand, daughters who look after their parents should be given more support, extending beyond just short visits.

On the other hand, there is evidence that this kind of help by daughters for their ageing parents can also have an adverse effect on the daughters themselves and should not therefore always be supported.

Ursula Lehr

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 12 June 1986)